

# the chronicle

**SUPER NANNY JO  
REVEALS HER  
SECRETS**  
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## Massive jobs bid now left in limbo

A £20 million development which could have created up to 1,000 jobs in Dudley has been shelved indefinitely while council bosses struggle to find funds for the scheme.

Millions of pounds of extra money is needed to make the Daniels Wharf site in Brierley Hill suitable to build offices and around 140 homes. However, the collapse of Advantage West Midlands - which was to fund the work - has left the project in limbo.

Regeneration chief, Councillor Angus Adams said the council would be forced to search for alternative funding before the scheme could get under way. "There has been no progress to this point. We are still looking to carry out the project but we will have to start searching for alternative funding," he said.

"This could be the European Regional Development Fund, or possibly even private investment."

The development is still included in the Brierley Hill Area Action Plan, which is due to be approved at a council meeting.

## Attacks on medics near 600

Almost 600 physical or verbal attacks have been recorded on paramedics doing their job in the West Midlands over the last year, new figures reveal.

Staff have been punched, kicked, scratched and even spat at while on duty.

Bosses at West Midlands Ambulance Service said paramedics face a "growing trend of violent and aggressive behavior towards NHS workers" and that more than one worker is attacked every day.

The new figures show 420 reports of verbal attacks have been reported on paramedics while 174 physical attacks have also been recorded between April last year and March this year.

In West Bromwich in March a paramedic was spat upon, while another had an unknown substance sprayed in their face in Aldridge in February.

Nothing is sacred as metal thieves strike over 3 months

# CRIMEWAVE AS BOROUGH HIT BY 400 THEFTS

[dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk)

Metal thieves have struck almost 400 times across the Dudley borough in just three months - making it the biggest crime problem in the region, police say.

Businesses, homes and churches have all been targeted by raiders looking to cash in on the rising price of scrap metal.

West Midlands Police have investigated around 392 metal thefts in the borough between March 30 and June 21 this year, making it one of the biggest crime waves they are battling.

Detectives say they are cracking down on the thieves and carrying out spot checks at scrapyards across the Black Country.

Businesses are also boosting security to try and deter crooks. Among those who fell victim to the crime during that time was Lye engineering firm Alexander Higgins and Sons, which was raided last month.

### Machinery

The company has installed an alarm system and is also looking into getting CCTV after part of a rare engine, machinery and tools worth thousands of pounds were stolen.

Director Malcolm Higgins said: "Every day I read about another metal theft."

"It never used to be such a problem but I think the thieves have become more determined. We've had no choice but to increase security."

Acting Det Ch Insp Wayne Jones said: "We continue to proactively target offenders for metal theft, in all its various forms, as well as continuing to tackle those handling and disposing of stolen metals."

"Operation Steel was relaunched earlier this year to address the very issue of high-value metal thefts, whether it be lead flashing from someone's home, manhole covers, metal parts from vehicles, or bulk metals from industry."

"Such crimes are never victimless as there is always someone who has to pay to replace the stolen items, and often there is significant inconvenience caused."

Other premises which have been targeted in the past three months include Hope Strict Baptist Chapel in Sedgley where copper piping was stolen along with silver communion chalices and a memorial plaque during a late-night break in.

## Sweet dress could soon be wrapped up

AN UNUSUAL dress made entirely of Cadbury chocolate wrappers is currently on display in a Halesowen optician's.

Birmingham-based designer Jojo Remeny is raffling off the size-12 dress to raise money for St Mary's Hospice.

It was first displayed in a Cadbury World exhibition and was once worn by a contestant in the Miss England beauty contest.

Mark Moran, a friend of Mr Remeny's who runs Spex Maniax on Hagley Road, Halesowen, is currently displaying the dress ahead of it being claimed during a St Mary's Hospice fundraiser on July 31.

Raffle tickets can be bought from Mr Moran, as well as tickets for the event, which takes place at Nepalese restaurant Jojo-lapa, Birmingham. "The dress has been getting a lot of attention from our customers," Mr Moran said.

"It's a great talking point and the whole thing is for a really good cause."

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Optician Mark Moran, from Spex Maniax on Hagley Road, Halesowen, with a dress made entirely of Cadbury chocolate wrappers

## Yob behaviour top of blights list for people

Anti-social behaviour is the "number one problem" blighting the lives of people in Dudley borough. People at a Police Authority Q&A session at Dudley council house demanded answers on the problem.

They grilled senior officers and councillors over the way they tackle the issue. The session was told Dudley Council and police have both held reviews into the way they dealt with anti-social behaviour, and found the two authorities need to work together more effectively to see results.

Supt Stuart Johnson told the meeting that while crime levels overall had seen a drop in recent years, the same could not be said for anti-social behaviour.

"In Dudley it is number one on our priorities at the moment," he said. "What we have done very recently is undertake a detailed review."

"At the moment, there are things such as noise nuisance, graffiti or litter which get reported to the council or to us, and there isn't the communication there. That is one of the things that came from the review."

One of the residents at the meeting, of Corporation Road, Kates Hill, claimed the main problem facing residents in the area was anti-social behaviour by council home residents.

Council chief executive John Polychronakis said: "One of the problems when we are dealing with anti-social behaviour from council tenants is that we need to get a court order, and to do that we need evidence," he said.

"This means we often have to get neighbours to gather evidence for us, which they can be reluctant to do."

## Council staff face cuts of up to 25pc

More than 1,200 workers at Dudley Council have been told they face salary cuts as part of an equal pay shake-up.

In a shock announcement, council leader Les Jones revealed 14 per cent of the authority's 9,000 staff will be offered a reduced salary - and some could lose more than a quarter of their annual pay cheque.

One-to-one discussions with 350 employees who are facing a cut of 15 per cent or more have already begun.

The offer has been formally submitted to trade unions, who have six weeks to decide whether they are acceptable. Under the offer, around 47 per cent of staff would maintain the same basic pay and 38 per cent will see an increase.

"Discussions have been ongoing with staff and trade unions for some months now and we have got to have a point where we say this is the offer we are going to make," said Councillor Jones.

"We have to make sure these people who are going to be affected are told as soon as possible. It is unfortunate that some people will be negatively affected but we have no choice."

If the proposals are agreed the new arrangements will come into effect in April 2012.

The changes are for the single status agreement which aims to introduce a fairer pay scale for people performing different jobs at a similar level. Job evaluations have been taking place over previous months to determine whether, for example, a parking warden should be paid the same wage as a receptionist, and so on.

## MP fielding cancer questions

The Halesowen Cancer Support group is to host a meeting with their local MP, James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, will be at the cancer support group meeting to talk about local issues and answer questions. The meeting will be on Wednesday, July 27 at 2pm at United Church, Hagley Road, Halesowen, and all are welcome to attend. For information, contact 01384 231232.

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# Car parking is the key to giving shops a boost



Dudley High Street is busy but lots of shops are closed

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The retired gentleman at the pay and display machine admits defeat. "Go on, it won't take my money", he says, as he beckons others to try and buy a pay and display ticket.

It is the car park at Inhedge in Dudley town centre. The machine requires motorists to input their registration number, a tactic designed to stop a kindly shopper who has bought more time than they needed from giving it to someone else.

Toy shop owner Alan Caswell says parking is the biggest challenge that traditional High Street retailers face.

The 57-year-old from Pattingham started as a Saturday worker at The Arcade Toy Shop in 1965 and now runs the place.

He said: "People are very loyal to Dudley but footfall is well down. Younger generations aren't coming here."

"Simple things like parking would help. That business with the registration number annoys people no end. Some people have to go back to their cars to remember what their number is."

## Heyday

The father of two now employs five people but his shop had 13 staff in its heyday in the 1980s. Dudley Council turned Stone Street car park into a public space in 2002 in an £800,000 development.

Traders say that was a mistake. They are now in discussions with council bosses about 80 new on-street spaces in the Stone Street and High Street area.

Shopper Cyril Bennett, aged 74, of Rosemary Crescent, Woodsetton, had parked on the road in Stone Street while he popped into town for some bread rolls and birthday cards. "This was the biggest waste of money. The car park was bringing money in and bringing people here."

Dudley's High Street is busy. There are plenty of people around to sell to. But the signs of decline are all too apparent.

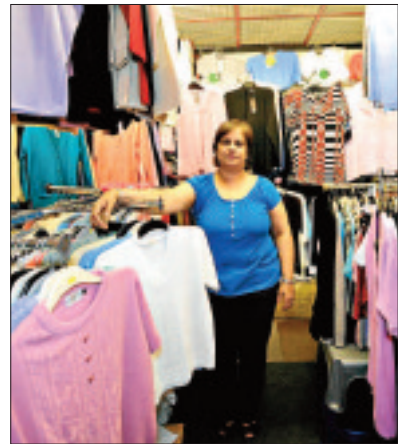
At least nine shops are closed perma-



Steven Homer at his butchers



Parking plea - Alan Caswell of the Arcade Toy Shop



Shock at market closure - Sally Sharma of Sally's Fashions



Sandra Guest and Pamela Burns

nently, many of them with no sign of what they used to be. There is an empty cash and carry, furniture clearance, a branch of Firkins bakery and a Millets camping supplies shop, with a sign on the door saying it is now operating out of its branch at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

## Diversify

Pamela Burns, aged 68, works at Teddy Gray's sweet shop. The great-grandmother of Green Park Road, Kates Hill, says: "We need the big shops like Marks and Spencer back. People just aren't coming in like they used to."

Traders have had to diversify to survive. Graham Bradley, aged 59, of Matthew Southall Potato Merchants is selling more to restaurants and takeaways now when his trade several decades ago was the many fruit and vegetable shops. A supermarket is planned for

Tower Street but Mr Bradley, of Summercourt Square, Kingswinford, says: "If it's going to work there needs to be plenty of parking."

"Other supermarkets out of town, like Tesco at the Burnt Tree Island, have taken trade away."

Steven Homer & Sons, a butcher's shop on the Churchill precinct has been trading for 10 years, manned by Mr Homer, aged 47. He says he has suffered a "dramatic decline in trade" over the past 12 months and said the lack of free parking had brought about a gradual demise of the High Street.

But he adds: "If Dudley town's appearance was revamped it would bring folks back in." Across the High Street is Spencer's Indoor Market, which is due to be closed permanently on July 23. Clothes stall Sally's Fashion first opened 20 years ago and will be forced to close.

Owner Sally Sharma, from Cosely, says cus-

tomers have been loyal over the years and have been shocked to hear that the market is being shut. "It was a shock to us all", she says. "I don't know what I'm going to do."

Too young to retire, she is now in the process of looking for employment elsewhere.

Rumours are circulating along the high street of a takeover by a large commercial chain but nothing has been confirmed.

## Revamping

The council is going to spend £6 million on revamping Dudley's Market Place.

Under all the market revamp plans, the statue of legendary Dudley footballer Duncan Edwards would be moved to the other end of the market towards Bottom Church.

The ageing toilet block would also be relocated, to create a view of Dudley Castle. The 19th century fountain would be refur-

bished and a new moat created. The number of permanent stalls would be reduced from the current 74 pitches but Dudley Council said temporary stalls could be added on busy days.

Councillor Les Jones, leader of Dudley Council is convinced the town centre has plenty of parking to accommodate shoppers.

He says: "However, we recognise that some of this car parking is not in the most convenient location. And as part of massive regeneration proposals for Dudley town centre, which are progressing well, we will hopefully bring in new car parking as part of wider improvements."

Ian Austin, MP for Dudley North, grew up in the town and spent Saturdays wandering from Graduate Records to Beatties or meeting friends at the cafe upstairs at Littlewoods.

"There's no doubt out-of-town shopping has had a big impact. The recession has hit the town centre hard."

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thechronicle

# Facebook it – the only way is Dudley

It might not be known for having the glamour of Essex, but thousands of people believe Dudley is the only place to be. The antics of perma-tanned young Essex revellers have inspired a Black Country resident to set up a group singing his area's praises.

A Facebook page called The Only Way is Dudley has now got more than 5,000 fans and is growing by the day. T-shirts have even been produced emblazoned with the group's logo, which features Dudley Castle.

Steven Edwards, of Brierley Hill, started his campaign after watching hit reality show The Only Way is Essex on ITV2, which documents the activities of a group of friends in Brentwood. The factory loader, aged 27, said he wanted to showcase what Dudley borough has to offer.

Members of the group are encouraged to post photos of their antics and discuss what is going on across the borough.

A fake "cast list" has been set up on the site featuring bands and well-known characters from the town.

Members send in pictures of their nights out at pubs such as The Mitre in Stourbridge and the Bluebrick in Brierley Hill. Mr Edwards' girlfriend, Rebecca Turner, 26, is a budding model and has put some photos on the site to add a bit of glamour.

Mr Edwards, of Gorsty Avenue, said: "I saw the TV show and I thought Dudley deserved to get some recognition."

"People don't realise the history the place has got and in some ways it seems to have been forgotten. The group gives people a forum to talk about what's good and bad about the place."

## Audience

The tops were made by online store The Black Country T-Shirt shop.

The Only Way is Essex has been attracting up to a million viewers and even scooped the Youtube Audience prize at the Baftas.

Each week it shows the stars, who range from personal trainers to beauty therapists, going clubbing and organising parties.

Among the stars is nightclub promoter Joey Essex who uses the catchphrase "totally reem", meaning something is good.

Mr Edwards added: "Dudley is full of down to earth people and there are quite a few council estates – so a Dudley version would be completely different to the Essex show."

"It would be amazing if someone did a documentary like that here because it would be full of real people."

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Brothers Steve Edwards, 27, and Tim Edwards, 24, wearing their Only Way is Dudley T-shirts

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# Hall packed out for debate over church

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Around 400 people turned out to have their say on the future of a Dudley church which campaigners have been battling to get reopened for years.

The Diocese of Worcester held the consultation session to assess public support for the reopening of Grade II listed St John's Church, Kates Hill, Dudley.

Nearly 300 people packed into the church hall, in St John's Road, within the first hour to give their views on three options being looked at for the church – including a scheme to split it in two.

The first option is for minimal changes to the building – simply the addition of new toilets, a meeting room and kitchen.

Under the second option, the church would be divided equally between worship and community use, and in the third worship space would be significantly reduced with two floors dedicated to community use.

Members of the St John's Church Preservation Group, which have fought to get the site reopened said they were concerned option three would strip away the building's historic aspects.

They were pleased when many of those gathered at the event agreed with them. Around 600 questionnaires were now completed.

## Worship

Many people said they wanted the church reopened mainly for worship but with some community features introduced.

Jane Ferguson, of Church Walk, Wolverhampton, said her family had used the church in the past and her 86-year-old father Dennis Hobbs had been a member of the choir.

The 52-year-old sales advisor said: "Personally I favour the second option using some parts of the building as a church and others for community use."

"I used to go to the church as a child and it is such a shame to see it no longer in use."

Brian Wilkinson, aged 61, of Beech Road, Tividale, has been a warden at the church for nearly a decade. He said: "At the moment these are just options which are being looked at."

Resident Joan Greenaway, aged 80, said it was a shame to see the church in its present condition. Mrs Greenaway now lives in Cypress Road, Dudley, but was born in Grove Street, Kates Hill. "I would dearly like to see the church back in use."

## College's £5m boost



Animal unit supervisor Alex Prestidge, Alfie and technician Rachel Thomas at the new block

Animals will be treated as VIPs at Halesowen College thanks to a new £5 million science and IT teaching department.

It is part of a £20 million plan to transform the college. And students on animal care courses were among the first to see the finishing touches being made to the building at the Whittingham Road campus.

It includes an outside courtyard for animal care and a rooftop science garden. College principal Keith Bate said: "Animal care, science and IT are very popular subjects and we pride ourselves on our modern teaching environment and high standards."

Work on an all-weather sports pitch is also progressing and there are plans for more new teaching areas, a learning centre and specialist teaching rooms for students with learning difficulties.

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# Decision on recycling trial due

A decision over how and where to expand a trial of plastic and cardboard recycling in a Black Country borough will be taken later this year.

Around 11,000 homes across Dudley have been taking part in the scheme which was launched in September.

It was due to come to an end in April but has been continuing to operate while council bosses decide what to do next. Residents in more than 300 streets were issued with a blue and a

green bag as part of the trial at a cost of £22,000 to the taxpayer.

Council chiefs say they are planning to continue with the scheme and will look at the project later this year to decide how to move forward.

Environment chief Councillor David Stanley said: "The plastics and card recycling trial has been very successful since its launch last September with 95 per cent of the 11,000 households taking part in the scheme. We are currently reviewing

the future of the scheme, with a view to making a decision on the most appropriate way forward later this year."

Streets across the borough have been taking part in the pilot including Cot Lane, Kingswinford, Hagley Road, Stourbridge and Dudley Road, Sedgley. Changes to bin collections in September last year introduced a three-bag limit on collections from each home in Dudley along with a bulk issue of bags.

## Chip shop plan at pub is backed

Plans to transform a former Stourbridge pub into a fish and chip restaurant and takeaway which would create up to 30 new jobs have been approved despite opposition from other fast-food bosses.

Spiros Bojouri wants to open the new business at the former Vine pub in Wordley, which had previously been Mad O'Rourke's Bar and Grill.

It follows the launch of his first Goodies fish and chip shop and restaurant in the former Four Furnaces pub in Pennsett High Street last year.

Members of the development control committee recently backed his plans for the new business at the former Vine pub.

Councillor Geoffrey Southall said: "There have already been two fires in the old Stuart Crystal buildings, one of them very serious."

"If the pub was brought back into use and there were people on site, it might act as a deterrent," added Councillor Southall.

Objections were lodged by Brettell Lane Chippy at Amblecote, Wordsley Chippy, Wollaston Fish Bar and Amblecote Fish Bar.

## Supernanny shares her secrets

Supernanny Jo Frost shared her parenting tips and signed copies of her new book at Dudley's Merry Hill Centre.

The television star was at Waterstone's as part of a promotional tour for her latest release - Confident Toddler Care.

"I've written a baby book so this was the next step. It's for anybody raising a toddler and will help from the first year to the fifth year," she said.

"It's a wonderful time in both the parents' and child's lives."

The star, who is famous for promoting the naughty step and dealing with some of the worst behaved children, shares her time between the UK and United States where she also has a show.

She said: "The cultures are different but the issues are still the same." Her latest programme in this country is Extreme Parental Guidance which is on Channel 4 on Wednesday nights.

Among the 60 people queuing to meet the 41-year-old today was mother-of-two Julie Wills, aged 34, from Stourbridge who took along eight-week-old baby Matthew.

She said: "I watch all Jo's programmes. They offer a lot of useful advice."



Supernanny Jo Frost at the book signing in Dudley's Merry Hill Centre

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DATE	DESTINATION	COST
Tue 2nd Aug	Weston Super Mare	£10.00
Wed 3rd Aug	Drayton Manor Theme Park Inc. Entrance/Rides	£25.00 Coach Only £9.00
Thur 4th Aug	Blackpool (Pleasure Beach Wristband)	£30.00 Coach Only £10.00
Sun 7th Aug	Rhyl (Air Show)	£10.00
Sun 7th Aug	Llandudno	£12.00
Wed 10th Aug	West Midlands Safari Park (inc drive thru enclosure) Ride Wristbands Available @ £10.00 per person	£15.00
Thur 11th Aug	Weston Super Mare (Beach - Shops - Grand Pier)	£10.00
Thur 11th Aug	Brean	£11.00
Sun 13th Aug	Wellesbourne Market & Stratford Ret By 6 pm	£9.00
Sun 14th Aug	Skegness Carnival (All the Fun of the Fair)	£14.00
Tue 16th Aug	Blackpool (Pleasure Beach Wristband)	£30.00 Coach Only £10.00
Wed 17th Aug	Alton Towers Theme Park Inc Entrance/Rides	£35.00 Child Rate 4 to 11 years £30.00 Coach Only £10.00

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## thechronicle

# Free music concerts planned

A programme of free jazz, rock and 60s music concerts during the summer has been unveiled for people in and around the Wyre Forest area.

A total of 14 concerts are taking place in July and August, offering people in the region the chance to bring a deckchair and picnic and enjoy the music at various venues.

New acts on the bill include Bewdley singer-songwriter Daniel Seth and Motown five-piece Soul-town, as well as old favourites including the Kidderminster Male Voice Choir.

At the QEII Jubilee Gardens in Load Street, Bewdley, the music

starts on July 31 with a concert sponsored by the Friends of Bewdley Museum.

Irish band The Exiles will play their brand of contemporary folk music with a Celtic flavour between 2pm and 4pm, and concerts will take place in the gardens at the same time each week.

## Museum

Visitors are also invited to pop in to Bewdley Museum next door for free.

Three concerts will take place on consecutive Sundays at Stourport Riverside, beginning on July 31 with Arthur Brown Jazz.

People in the town will then pull on their cowboy boots for the annual Wyre Forest Country & Western Festival which is now in its fifth year, and has grown in popularity and size since the first one-day event staged by a line dancing group in the district.

Now, the two-day extravaganza features live country music and stalls selling crafts, jewellery and general bric-a-brac. There will also be line dancing demonstrations and a fast draw shoot-out competition.

The event is free but some activities may charge. For more information about the line-up, visit the events section at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

# Month-long closure of road spurs anger

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Businesses in Dudley town centre fear trade will be hit following the month-long closure of a busy town centre road for major works to take place.

Stafford Street, Dudley is closed for the roadworks, with cordons and diversions to stay in place until August 11.

The closure is between High Street and Wellington Road – a stretch of road used daily by thousands. Diversions will take place in High Street, Wolverhampton Street, Southall's Lane, Wellington Road, King Street and Union Street.

But traders are concerned the closure will lead to heavy traffic congestion along those roads causing disruption to their business.

Janet Simpson, who runs Janet's Hair and Beauty Products, in Wolverhampton Street, said: "This is a very long time to have a main road like Stafford Street closed."

"It will inevitably cause more traffic along neighbouring roads and I am concerned people coming in to the town may see those queues and simply turn back. This would be bad for trade in this area."

"You cannot close off a road like this without it having an impact on other roads nearby."

## Bottle-neck

Cynthia Burgin, of Burgins News, also Wolverhampton Street, said: "Stafford Street is a bottle-neck at busy times and all that traffic is going to be moved to other roads."

"It will cause heavy traffic in this area which may have an impact on trade."

"Drivers will have no choice but to use these roads simply to get around the town."

Bus routes have also been diverted because of the closure.

The work is taking place as part of an 18-month programme of roadworks around the town centre.

Stafford Street car park, which is used by hundreds daily will be open but drivers will have to use the two entrances in Cross Street.

# Full steam ahead for revamp

A replica 18th century steam engine central to the Black Country's industrial heritage will be renovated ahead of its 300th anniversary.

Industrialist Thomas Newcomen's 1712 engine transformed mining in the coalfields of the region and across the country.

A Newcomen engine using original designs and sourced from Black Country materials has been on display at the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley for 25 years.

But on August 30 it will close for a restoration scheme, for which grant applications are still being finalised.

A grand reopening will take place next summer.

Museum director of collections David Eveleigh said the replica engine has played a significant role.

"Within the field of science and technology, the museum's replica has made a considerable contribution to our understanding of early steam technology but it also places the museum and its collections at the very heart of the rise of the western world," he said.

It will be the focal point of a programme to mark its 300th anniversary next summer including a lecture by the television presenter Adam Hart-Davies.



The building which houses the engine

# Baseball attack man is facing jail

A man who attacked a woman with a baseball bat in Dudley and assaulted another man has been warned he faces an "inevitable" jail sentence.

Richard Marsh, aged 42, of High Street, Quarry Bank pleaded guilty to previous bodily harm against Sarah Blakemore at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 12.

He also admitted common assault against Philip Worrall, though denied assault causing actual bodily harm. He was released on bail until August 3, when he will be sentenced, while reports are prepared.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told him he had pleaded guilty to an "extremely serious" offence. "A custodial sentence is inevitable," he said.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha defending told the court Marsh was aware a custodial sentence was likely, adding: "There is much about this man that is positive."

# Thief's raids cost company £20,000

A thief who targeted a Black Country firm three times for metal made them lose £20,000 in trade, a court heard.

Leigh Clarke even carried out the third raid when he was on bail for breaking into an electricity substation. He stole £2,000 worth of metal from scrap traders Sims Metal Management in Cradley Heath, Dudley Magistrates were told.

Bosses at the firm say they lost £20,000 in business due to the damage caused as production had to be suspended, the court heard.

Clarke, aged 42, of Gibbs Road in Lye, first broke into the site in Bassetts Road on June 9. He returned 11 days later and took copper cables worth £750. Clarke returned on July 7 when he cut a number of brass fittings worth £240 from gas bottles.

Clarke pleaded guilty to burglary and three theft counts. Sentencing will be next month.

# Replica anchor heads home

A replica of the Titanic anchor is to be returned to the community where the original was made after months of campaigning by residents.

And a special event is being planned to celebrate its return to Netherton in September.

The 18ft iron anchor is now on display at the Black Country Living Museum.

But a planning application has been made to Dudley Council to erect it in Netherton Market Place.

Residents of Netherton – home to the factory where the original was built – wanted it returned there permanently. They originally feared it

would stay at the museum for good when Council leader Les Jones suggested it would be seen by more people there.

But after a public outcry council officers drew up proposals to take it back to Netherton.

## History

A Nautical Day will be staged on September 17 featuring market stalls, street theatre, and a display on the history of the Titanic.

Councillor Tracy Wood, who represents Netherton and has led the campaign, said: "It's fantastic news because this is so important to the

community and it will give people a real lift."

"This is where it belongs," she added.

Although formal planning permission still needs to be granted, Mrs Wood said she expected that to be a "formality".

Over the last year residents have been holding public meetings over the issue and even produced their own T-shirts emblazoned with the message "1911-2011. Anchoring Netherton's Future".

The anchor will be erected on a plinth on a grassed area outside the Savoy Centre in Netherton.



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thechronicle

## Memories are stirred at big school reunion

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk



Ex-pupils and staff gather for the reunion



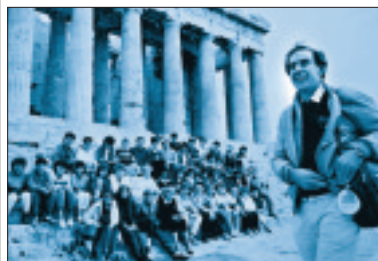
Andrea Holloway and Bernadette Hadgett catch up



Michael Mandry with a picture of the school's 1970s basketball team



Frances Richman, Ian Flavell and Noreen Flavell



Mr Mandry in 1985 leading a school trip to the Mediterranean



A boys woodwork class at High Arcal School in the 1960s

More than 200 former staff and pupils gathered together to celebrate such a special anniversary," he said.

The main hall at High Arcal School, in High Arcal Drive, Sedgley, was packed as old friends met to share memories.

An exhibition of photographs from the school's archives was created for the occasion. They followed the school's history from its opening in 1961 to the present day.

Among the pictures on display were shots of the school being built and of woodwork and metalwork classes taken just after it opened.

The reunion was part of a series of events being held to mark the golden anniversary which will culminate with a special dinner in October.

Among those taking a walk down memory lane were 73-year-old Michael Mandry, who worked at the school for 21 years before his retirement in 1988.

He came to the school in 1967 to set up an economics department and eventually became the head of the school's sixth form.

Mr Mandry, of Wall Heath, was delighted to find two pictures from his time at the school in the exhibition. One showed him with the school's basketball team from the early 1970s, which he coached, and another when he led the Dudley schools cruise to the Mediterranean in 1985.

"It is nice to see so many former staff and pupils gathered together to celebrate such a special anniversary," he said.

"I really enjoyed my time at the school. It is a wonderful place and it is really nice to come back after all these years."

Mr Mandry said his three granddaughters had also attended the school.

Friends Andrea Holloway, aged 49, from Cosleay, and Bernadette Hadgett, 50, of Woodsetton, were also looking through the collected old photographs.

The pair were friends when they attended the school between 1974 and 1978 and met up again when their children became friends.

Mrs Holloway excelled at swimming and the school having its own pool was a bonus.

### Teacher

The building society manager said: "By today's standards the pool was quite small and very hot but I have really good memories of it," she said.

Mrs Hadgett, who is now a teacher herself at Wordsley School, was head girl during her time at High Arcal.

"We have had a walk around some of the classrooms and it has changed a great deal since we were here in the 1970s," she said.

"The only thing which hasn't seemed to change is the school hall itself. It is great to have events like this to meet up with old friends and your former teachers."

Noreen Flavell, 56, of Wombourne, and her 56-year-old husband Ian met when they were in the school's sixth form together.

"They attended the school between 1966 and 1973. Their relationship started in 1971 and the couple have now been married for 34 years."

Mrs Flavell, a teacher at Wolverhampton Girls' School, said: "The school has some very special memories for us. It is always great to come back and see people again."

Also attending was Mrs Flavell's lifelong friend Frances Richman, 56, of Worcester.

The English tutor remembered she and Mrs Flavell travelling to school from Goldthorn Park, Wolverhampton, where they both lived. She said: "I can still remember us both loaded by our satchels and other things we had to carry for school."

Another visitor was deputy leader of Dudley Council, and former High Arcal pupil, Councillor Tim Wright, who found a class photo of himself taken at the school in 1977 when he was 16. He said: "It really has been a trip down memory lane for everyone," he said. "I really enjoyed my time here and have been delighted to come back."

School spokesman Sukhjot Dhani said it was an "excellent event. He added: "We are very pleased so many former staff and pupils turned out to celebrate the 50th anniversary with us. There are more events to come later in the year and we hope these will be just as successful."



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thechronicle

# Bosses in talks on collapsed care firm

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Council chiefs across the region said they were working closely with social care bosses and managers following the collapse of care home operator Southern Cross.

Bosses have met managers of homes in the Black Country and Staffordshire after last week's announcement that the company was to close and transfer operations to its landlords.

Southern Cross employs 44,000 people nationally and runs some 20 care homes in the Black Country and five in Staffordshire. Council chiefs in Dudley said they were working to make sure Southern Cross residents were the top priority.

Other care homes affected in the Black Country and Wyre Forest include Ashbourne, Dudley, Ashgrove, Netherton, Bryden House, Kidderminster, and Redbrick Court, Wordsley.

Dudley Council community chief, Councillor Lesley Faulkner, said: "We are working with colleagues in health and other local authorities regionally and nationally to ensure the interests of residents in Southern Cross care homes are protected."

## Stressed

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris recently visited Southern Cross' Roxburgh House care home, Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath, to discuss the future for staff and residents.

The home is one of 26 in the West Midlands run by the struggling company employing around 40 workers and housing 38 residents.

"Obviously this news is very concerning for residents of Southern Cross care homes and their friends and family," said Mr Morris.

"It is important that the landlords of these care homes take the time to consider the implications of any decision they make regarding their future use."

"I hope that the majority of the care homes will continue to offer residential care."

"In the meantime, I will be speaking to both Dudley and Sandwell Councils to ensure that continuity of care is maintained for the residents."

## Beacon voted leading light



Receiving the award, general manager Alex Marchant and operations manager Simon Massey, with other Camra members, at Beacon Hotel

Plenty of real ale, a cosy atmosphere and welcoming staff have helped The Beacon Hotel in Sedgley win another coveted award.

The pub has been named West Midlands county pub of the year for the fourth in the row by real ale champion Camra.

The traditional Victorian pub in Bilston Street is home to the Sarah Hughes Brewery and its famous Dark Ruby Mild which attracts drinkers from across the Midlands

and further afield. In March, the Beacon Hotel was named pub of the year by members of the Dudley and South Staffordshire branch of Camra, for the fourth year in a row.

General manager Alex Marchant, aged 26, said she was "thrilled" with the pub's latest success.

Simon Hanson, for Camra said: "The quality and range of beers speak for themselves, most of which are brewed in the brewery at the back of the pub."



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# Delight over campaign success on bus service

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk



Joyful residents celebrating the return of the bus route with, front, support worker Doris Elwell, MP Ian Austin, Councillor Stuart Turner, Keiran Casey and Centro's head of transport operations Chris Perry

Passengers are celebrating after a much-needed bus route was reinstated after a hard-fought crusade. Campaigners had battled to bring back a bus to Vicarage Road West in Woodsetton, and Laurel Road and Hazel Road, Dudley.

It was axed last year. The changes to the old 283 bus route in July last year left many Vicarage Road West residents, some of whom are elderly and have difficulty walking, in limbo.

Instead of servicing Vicarage Road West and Swan Village, the route used Mason Street to get to Dudley.

It meant residents had to walk a long way to the nearest bus stops, in Birmingham New Road or Chad Road. Dudley North MP Ian Austin and new ward councillor Adam Aston launched a petition, which was signed by hundreds of residents, for the reinstatement of the Vicarage Road West service.

## Influence

He also contacted Centro about using its influence to bring back the routes. Centro contacted bus operator National Express, which has now agreed to introduce route changes from July 24 so Vicarage Road West, Hazel Road and Laurel Road will once again be served by buses.

Mr Austin said: "I am delighted. The

number one issue in this area was the lack of bus services. I want to thank all the local residents who backed my calls by signing the petition. This result shows what we can achieve when we work together."

Councillor Adam Aston added: "I am delighted residents will soon have a bus service they have been calling for."

Vicarage Road West will be served by the 81, Laurel Road by the 82 and X96 and Hazel Road will be covered by the X96.

Centro's head of transport operations, Chris Perry said: "We're delighted in the way that all parties have pulled together to solve this issue. Bus services are a lifeline for many elderly people and these route changes will be a real benefit."

## Doctor is fined for killing dad

The doctor who killed the father of a Cradley Heath GP with an overdose of diamorphine has been fined 7,000 euros for violating the doctor's code of conduct.

Dr Stuart Gray's father David died when Daniel Ubani, a doctor from Germany on his first shift as a locum in the UK, gave him the overdose.

As a result Ubani was struck off in the UK. However, he is still able to work in Germany, where he was fined the equivalent of £6,168.

Dr Gray, of Church View Surgery and brother Rory, an engineer at the European Space Agency in Germany have been battling to have the doctor banned from working elsewhere, after he was struck off by the UK's General Medical Council.

A British coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing on 70-year-old David Gray, of Cambridgeshire in 2008 and accused Ubani of gross negligence.

Dr Gray, of Kidderminster, said: "The Doctors Chambers, the German equivalent of the GMC has fined Ubani for what happened with my father and other patients, but has no power to stop him from practising."

"It has told us it wants him struck off, but that decision is down to the local council, which refuses to do so."

The family is writing to the German government and pressing for language tests for doctors.

## Chainmaking event to move from museum

The annual Women Chainmakers' Festival at the Black Country Living Museum is being moved to Sandwell. The event has been held at the Black Country Living Museum since 2005.

However, this year it will be held at Bearmore Mound in Cradley Heath. It is understood organisers the Trades Union Congress were forced to find another venue for the event which marks the 1910 chainmaker's strike, after bosses at the museum expressed concerns it had become too political.

A festival to mark the strike led by trade unionist Mary Macarthur, will still take place at the museum in October mirroring events in previous years, but it will have a new name.

Earlier this year museum bosses said last year's festival was "eclipsed" by union demonstrations and feared the true message of the event had been lost.

Alan Weaver, who organises the event on behalf of the Trades Union Congress, said: "Bringing the chainmakers' festival back to the heart of the community where the women fought for their rights is a great achievement."

### Future

"We are looking to make this festival an integral part of Cradley Heath for the foreseeable future and look forward to a long and successful partnership with the council to make this happen."

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive at the Black Country Living Museum, said: "The museum is very pleased to be continuing to hold an event in October to recognise and celebrate the women chainmakers' struggle. It continues to be an especially important event for the museum, given the presence on site of the Workers' Institute."

"After last year's event, which did cause the museum to be concerned about the high profile it gave to demonstrations about cuts in public spending and the privatisation of the post office, it is understood that the TUC will be holding its own event in Cradley Heath."

The seventh Women Chainmakers' Festival takes place at Bearmore Mound on September 17.

## McDonald's diner offering 40 jobs

Forty new jobs are being created at a Dudley fast food restaurant. McDonald's franchisee, Afia Sirkhot, aged 43, wants to increase the workforce at the Castlegate branch from 60 to 100.

In November, the restaurant started opening 24/7, which has proven popular with customers prompting the need for extra workers. Mrs Sirkhot said the available positions were "across the board" and ranged from front counter and kitchen staff to drive thru attendants.

"The hours are very flexible and can be during the day or during the night. I am looking to recruit people of all ages who enjoy working with people."

"It could be teenagers who want to earn some qualifications while they work or mothers who want flexible hours or people who may have been made redundant from another job," she said. Mrs Sirkhot, who has run the Castlegate franchise for two and a half years, said there were also training and apprenticeship opportunities.

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## thechronicle

# Children's services hit by cuts

Council chiefs in Dudley have been forced to divert £2 million of funds to help plug a £4.4m hole in its children's services budget left by extra government budget cuts.

With more than £12m now being slashed from the budget and 101 jobs to go this year alone, the department has been forced to undergo a complete overhaul.

Children's chief Councillor Liz Walker said: "It is going to be tough but we are desperately trying to make

sure that the services continue. It will be a bit different, and much reduced, but we are working to ensure that they will be there."

The department had already resigned itself to losing almost £9m by 2014 when the budget was set in March.

But a fresh blow came when the Government announced it was cutting an extra £4.4m in grants from the 2011/12 budget. This included the £3.6m Early Intervention Grant and

£800,000, which helped pay for youth music and performing arts activities.

The extra cuts led to large-scale events such as Rock the Castle at Himley Hall being cut and replaced with a smaller event in Dudley Concert Hall.

Councillor Walker said other changes would mean schools would have to take on more responsibility for buying in some services, such as music lessons, rather than getting them from the council.

## Family fun planned at the Cone

Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone has set up a programme of family activities and events throughout the school holidays.

The cone's showcase gallery will be transformed into a children's activity zone and there will be sand pits with buckets and spades in the craft courtyard.

The Juniors at Museums club will be on hand with activities including kiln fused glass workshops for children aged five and above as well as fun days for the whole family.

Saz's Ceramics will also be running pottery, glass and fabric painting sessions every week and holding clay days every Thursday from July 28 to September 1.

The Red House Glass Cone is open Monday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm and admission is free.

## Pupils on the ball with Heather



England rugby union star and international bobsledder Heather Fisher with pupils Chad Edwards, Joe Parker and Matthew Greenaway, all aged 12

## Inquest started

An inquest on a man from Dudley has been opened and adjourned. Mark Andrew Butler, aged 46, of Middle Park Road, Russells Hall, died on July 6 at his home. The case has been adjourned to a date to be fixed for tests.

England rugby union star and international bobsledder Heather Fisher dropped into a Black Country school to talk about her sporting achievements.

The 27-year-old, who plays for Worcester Warriors, visited the Coseley School and Sports College in Henne Drive.

During her bobsleigh career, she represented Great Britain from 2006 to 2008 competing in junior championships, the British Championship and on the Euro-

pean circuit. She is now a flanker for the Worcester Warriors women's team and plays at the city's Sixways stadium.

Fisher, who has played for Lichfield, is a sports lecturer at Warwickshire College in Henley-in-Arden.

Coseley teacher Steve Stokes said Fisher's talk with the students, during which she talked about overcoming barriers through sport, had been inspirational to hear.



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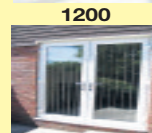


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# FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR CASH CONVERTERS



**C**ash Converters on Long Lane, Blackheath, has celebrated its first anniversary and used the opportunity to thank all of its loyal customers with a community thank you raffle.

Store manager, Michelle Winters, wanted to mark the occasion and say a big thank you to all customers. Since the store opened last July the store has welcomed thousands of people from all walks of life looking for a bargain and a way to ease short term cash flow problems.

The UK's number one retailer of pre-owned goods, Cash Converters buys and sells a wide variety of items, including musical instruments, LCD TVs, ipods and DVDs and DIY tools. There is also a summer price crash on all the games consoles in store, ideal for our typically British summers!

The Blackheath store relies on locals bringing in their unwanted goods which they then sell on for bargain prices. In return, Cash Converters will offer instant cash for items brought into the store.

Michelle said: "Often people come into our stores surprised at what we will buy from them not realising that the unused items in their homes could be making them money. We hope that families in and around Blackheath will make use of this service and keep boredom at bay this summer."

"It may be you only need some cash to tide you over, in which case we offer the option to get your item back, known as a Buyback. Buyback is a really straightforward and quick service to use. Customers bring in an item along with some up to date identification; a price is agreed and the customer gets

the cash and up to 28 days option to buy back the goods. Of course, if you realise you can live without that old Playstation 3 or the guitar you meant to learn to play but never did, you can simply leave it with Cash Converters."

Cash Converters in Blackheath is part of a network of over 190 Cash Converters stores across the UK, which provides customers with a convenient environment to sell used and unwanted goods for instant cash. The store also offers a place to shop for pre-owned bargains, plus a range of financial services including pawnbroking, cash advance and personal loans.

**For more information about Cash Converters visit [www.cashconverters.co.uk](http://www.cashconverters.co.uk) or call the store on 0121 5594007**



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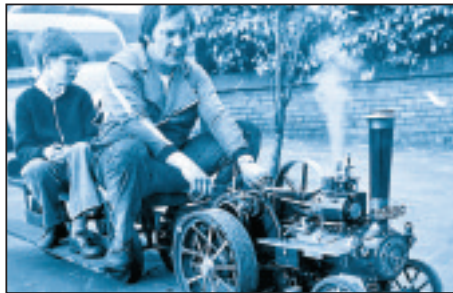
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Len takes a closer look at the engine



Lessons in steam... back in the 1970s when Len took one of his model engines on a visit to a school in Dudley



Jane and Len Crane with their lovingly restored 1902 Burrell Patent Engine and, inset, the same machine after an accident in 1939

## A-traction for steam proves winning way

LEN Crane was just a boy of 11 when his passion for steam engines was sparked.

"They say as you get older your toys get bigger," smiled the 78-year-old, who with wife Jane has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award recognising their contribution to the repair and preservation of engines.

The Wolverhampton couple met in 1953 through a mutual love of motorcycle racing and for 30 years, owned their own business, Leonard Crane Transport Ltd, in Tivdiale.

Mr Crane, who hails from Lanesfield, became interested in steam engines at 11 when he started building model steam engines. He is perhaps best known as the former chief engineer of the Bratch pumping station in Wombourne.

### Celebrate

Even since his retirement in 2001 Mr Crane has continued to host open days at the attraction, welcoming hundreds of people from all over the country to view the engines he has lovingly restored.

It was his turn to travel when he and his wife, who celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary this year, went to Trinity House in London where they were awarded the Transport Trust award by Prince Michael of Kent. Speaking about the



Jane with the 1925 restored Marshall steam roller that Len gave her for her 50th birthday

award, Mr Crane said he was delighted his wife – for so long a supportive presence on the sidelines – had been recognised.

"It was marvellous. Usually I win cups and trophies but it's always me who receives them, with Jane in the background," he said. "All of a sudden though, we receive a letter in April from the Transport Trust for a joint award."

Mrs Crane added: "We were so honoured. Prince Michael was absolutely charming and spoke to each of the award winners individually, about his own personal experiences on a steam boat. It's just so nice to receive the award – tea and rock buns are usually my recognised speciality."

Sixty-seven years since he set out to

make his first model, Mr Crane has restored five engines, some of them weighing up to 400 tons and worth £250,000.

The couple can be found most nights at their yard in Wombourne, working on the engines.

For eight years, however, the only space available was an opening behind their garden hedge, working in what Mrs Crane described as "very inclement weather".

Fortunately, a corner of a unit in Wombourne was offered to them by personal friend John Wootton, who also organises the steam section of the West Park Show.

Mrs Crane continued: "I usually join Len in the afternoon in the yard to help, and we can be there until 9 or 10 some evenings."

Mr Crane has just completed nine years' work renovating Endurance, a 1902 Burrell Patent Engine that he found in Milborne Port, Dorset. With his wife he managed to buy, strip down and rebuild it, right up to the final paintwork.

It was displayed at the beginning of June at Wolverhampton's West Park and has been on show at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, since then.

Mr Crane has, alongside his lifetime's work on steam engines, also won the Motocross British Championship twice.

He had just returned from two years' National Service with the Royal Engineers on the day of a very special motocross race.

### Incredible

A 14-year-old Jane happened to stroll by as he was preparing, and offered to help.

One date to the pictures, and 57 years of marriage later, they have one daughter and are still working to rebuild incredible feats of engineering.

His completed 1925 Marshall Steam roller was presented, adorned in ribbons, to his wife for her 50th birthday. In 2010 daughter Brigitte rode to her wedding on a huge 1928 Fowler Crane belonging to her father.

The classic vehicle is affectionately known by locals as the Wolverhampton Wanderer.

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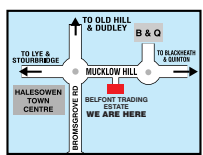


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thechronicle

## Quarry used to aid firefighter training



Above and below, firefighters from Blue Watch in an exercise dealing with victims of a car crash in a quarry

**By Alex Wainwright**

Firefighters from Dudley Blue Watch were part of a major training exercise at a local quarry to test their skills for unusual road traffic collisions.

Eleven fire engines and crews, including technical rescue specialists, joined with colleagues from West Midlands Ambulance Service's Hazardous Area Response Team (HART), at Ketley Quarry, Kingswinford.

The exercise involved a crash between two cars, with one of the vehicles falling down the 50 metre embankment and landing at the bottom of the quarry.

Complete with mock casualties from the vehicles around the crash site, the exercise presented a great opportunity to test how the different

agencies work together in a challenging and unusual environment.

Crew commander Bren Bladon said: "This exercise presented a number of challenges because of the simultaneous elements involved."

### Specialist

"Conscious of time, we had to use specialist rescue equipment, specifically designed for working at height, to safely remove the casualties from the cars."

There were some valuable lessons from this exercise for all involved, he added.

WCL Quarries Ltd allowed Dudley Blue Watch and their colleagues to use the site for free.

Managing director Simon Winner said: "As a local business, WCL Quarries likes to invest in the local community, whether this be creating jobs, supporting local initiatives or, as we have with West Midlands Fire Service, providing a location for them

to conduct vital training exercises that will help them save lives."

"The Fire and Rescue Service perform an admirable public service and I'm just pleased that WCL Quarries is able to support them in this way."



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MON	11.00am 6.45pm 8.00pm	10.00am				
TUES			7.30pm		6.00pm 7.00pm (advanced)	
WED	10.00am 5.30pm 7.00pm		7.30pm			
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thechronicle

## Age charity on move to bigger premises

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A charity in Dudley is to close two of its offices and open a new bigger base at the Merry Hill Shopping Centre, bosses revealed.

Age UK Dudley will take over the running of the Shopmobility wheel-chair and scooter hire services at the centre from the start of August.

It plans to close its trading insurance and information offices in Birdcage Walk, Dudley, and Mill Street, Brierley Hill and transfer the staff and volunteers to Merry Hill where it already runs an activity centre.

Bosses said the new base at the current Shopmobility office, opposite the cinema car park, will allow more people to access its services, which are used by thousands of Dudley pensioners every year.

They include the day care, footcare, gardening and good neighbour schemes as well as advice and information and the exercise and IT classes.

### Offering

Chief officer Sally Huband said the charity was also looking at offering an "out-reach" service in Dudley town centre to avoid leaving the area entirely. It is hoped a part-time service can be set up although this has not yet been confirmed.

"Age UK are certain that everyone that visits these two offices will appreciate the newer and bigger surroundings," she said.

"There will be lots more to see at Shopmobility Merry Hill and staff and volunteers are really looking forward to welcoming to visit their new home," she said.

Westfield's customer experience manager Sue Pedley said: "We are delighted to be working with Age UK Dudley and are confident they will continue to deliver this service to the high standards of our concierge team has provided up to now.

"Westfield concierge team will continue to be on hand for support during the handover period."

Age UK Dudley will be remaining at its office in Cradley Road, Netherton as well as the activity and wellbeing centre based between Sainsbury's and Argos at Merry Hill.

The activity centre runs a range of dance, exercise and IT classes as well as photography sessions.

## Horse tramples on car



June and Bill Willetts with their car which was hit by a horse

A horse crashed into a parked car, smashing the windscreen, in a freak accident in Dudley.

The animal was being ridden along Bromley Lane in Kingswinford when it suddenly bolted, reared up and its front legs landed on top of the Mercedes owned by grandmother June Willetts.

The rider was thrown from the horse but was not thought to have been injured. The horse suffered cuts to its legs.

The windscreen of the Mercedes C-Class was smashed and the roof and bonnet were dented.

Retired hairdresser Mrs Willetts, aged 68, had been in the

front living room of her home with her daughter Claire when the accident happened.

She said: "My daughter looked out of the window and said, 'Mum, there's a horse on the roof of your car'. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw it."

"It was such a shock. Another 10 minutes and I would have been leaving the house to pick up my grandchildren from school so it could have been a lot worse," she said.

Mrs Willetts said it was an "accident waiting to happen" as the area had a problem with stray horses roaming loose.



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- Included Excursions:**
- Broadstairs & Canterbury
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- Included Excursions:**
- Swanage, Poole harbour and included coastal cruise
  - Isle of Wight taking in Shanklin and Sandown

**5 Days • 4 Nights:** 22 August from £199.95



### Isle of Wight, Shanklin

The glorious Isle of Wight has an ever changing coastline, gentle rolling dunes and charming little towns. The Langham Court Hotel is set minutes from the sea front.

- Included Excursions:**
- Traditional village of Godshill
  - Tour of the Island's coastline taking in Yarmouth, Cowes & Ryde

**4 Days • 3 Nights:**  
12, 26 August, 16 September from £129.95



### Eastbourne & the South Downs Imperial Hotel

Elegant Eastbourne has a sheltered location, close to the promenade, beaches and shops. The Imperial Hotel is an impressive building - there is generous lounge space & regular entertainment

- Included Excursions:**
- 1066 country - Battle, Hastings & Rye
  - Brighton

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### Edinburgh Tattoo & the Lake District

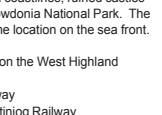
**3 Days • 2 Nights:** 05 & 19 August from £199.95

### Great Little Trains of North Wales

Enjoy North Wales - with its rugged coastlines, ruined castles and endless panoramas of the Snowdonia National Park. The Westminister Hotel, Rhyl has a prime location on the sea front.

- Included Excursions:**
- Visit to Caernarfon with journey on the West Highland Railway
  - Betts-y-Coed and the Bala Railway
  - Portmeirion and journey on Ffestiniog Railway

**5 Days • 4 Nights:** 22 August from £199.95



### Lakeland Rails, Sails & the Peak District

We travel firstly to Bakewell and the Peak District National Park. Check into the comfortable Britannia Hotel, Stockport. On day 2, head for lovely Lakeland and included steam train journey on Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway. On day 3 we explore the Dales. On day 4 we return home calling in at Chester.

**4 Days • 3 Nights:**  
12 August from £119.95



### Pontins Super Breaks

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**Prestatyn** - set between the rolling hills of Wales and miles of award winning beaches - 22 August, 19 Sept  
**Camber Sands** - set next to a long sandy beach near Ryde - 25 July, 15 August, 12 September

### Torquay

Torquay has a superb coastline, attractive harbour and wide selection of cafes and bars. We stay at a selection of hotels including the Cavendish & Seascapes Hotels

**5 Days • 4 Nights:**  
25 July, 01 & 15 August, 05 Sept from £199.95



### Isle of Wight - Corner House Hotel

The Corner House is set in the glorious resort of Sandown, within walking distance of the beach, pier and shops.

- Included excursions:**
- Full day tour of the Island
  - Full day tour taking in Ryde & Osborne House, (admission extra)
  - Half day visit to Godshill
  - Half day visit to Newport

**8 Days • 7 Nights:** 30 July & 13 Aug from £369.95



### Eastbourne • Congress Hotel

Elegant Eastbourne is famous for its flower decked promenade and gardens, beaches and excellent facilities. The Congress Hotel is ideally located close to the sea front theatres and parks.

- Included excursions:**
- Brighton • Hastings & Rye

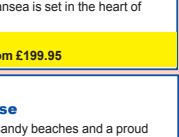
**5 Days • 4 Nights:**  
15 August from £199.95



### Swansea & the Gower Peninsular

Enjoy the delights of the Gower Peninsular, the Valleys and St. Fagans Folk Park. The Ibis Swansea is set in the heart of town.

**5 Days • 4 Nights:**  
15 August & 12 September from £199.95

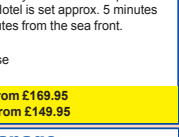


### Great Yarmouth & Norfolk Broads Cruise

Great Yarmouth offers miles of sandy beaches and a proud maritime heritage. The Prince Hotel is set approx. 5 minutes from the town centre and 2 minutes from the sea front.

- Included excursions:**
- Norfolk Broads & scenic cruise
  - Historic Norwich

**5 Days • 4 Nights:** 15 August from £169.95  
12 Sept from £159.95, 10 Oct from £149.95



### Bournemouth, Swanage, Weymouth & Lulworth Cove - with optional trip to Guernsey

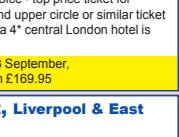
**5 Days • 4 Nights:** 29 August from £199.95  
11 September & 10 October from £189.95



### London & Theatre Double Bill 2 Shows in 2 Days

See 2 London shows of your choice - top price ticket for evening ticket on Friday night and upper circle or similar ticket for Saturday matinee. A stay in a 4\* central London hotel is included.

**2 Days • 1 Night:** 19 August, 23 September, 28 October, 11 November - from £169.95

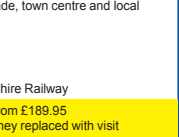


### Elegant Southport, Liverpool & East Lancashire Railway

Relax in Southport - an elegant resort with a traditional sea front and wonderful old pier. The Talbot Hotel is set within walking distance of the promenade, town centre and local amenities.

- Included Excursions:**
- Tour of the Forest of Bowland
  - Visit to Liverpool
  - Bury and ride on East Lancashire Railway

**5 Days • 4 Nights:** 22 August from £189.95  
17 October (Bury & Railway journey replaced with visit to Ormskirk) - from £159.95



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- Price includes:**
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  - 2 nights bed and Continental breakfast in France - stopover hotels; 2 nights half board - 3\* hotel, Lake Garda area; 5 nights half board - Sorrento Peninsular area
  - Included tour along the Amalfi coast - one of the most spectacular coastlines in Europe. We stop in Positano and continue to Amalfi. We also take in Ravello
  - Optional tour to the Island of Capri, with included guided tour by minibus - £59.95pp
  - Optional visit to Pompeii & Mount Vesuvius - £39.95pp
  - Optional visit to the city of Naples - £19.95pp

**Special Offer: Book all 3 excursions for just £99.95 per person**

**10 Days • 9 Nights:** 30 September from £399.95



### Switzerland 'All Inclusive' by First Class Coach

Immerse yourself in the alpine splendour of crystal blue lakes and beautiful towering peaks. Our hotel the 3\* Kuar Hotel Bad Sarnen is family run, set in a quiet location just outside Klosters. During your stay the hotel have included a selection of drinks from 18.30 until 21.30 hours on a daily basis.

- Included excursions:**
- Davos & Klosters
  - Bregenz & Lake Constance
  - Swiss Glacier Express train journey
  - St Moritz

**8 Days • 7 Nights:**  
05 August from £599.95



### Lake Garda, Venice & Verona Hotel Centrale

Beautiful Lake Garda nestles at the foot of the Dolomites with its mild Mediterranean climate, lovely lakeside towns and villages. Our hotel - the Centrale - is set in a great location in the heart of Riva.

- Optional excursions:**
- Lake Garda circular tour - £9.95 per person
  - Verona - £9.95 per person
  - Venice - £39.95 per person

**8 Days • 7 Nights:**  
23 July, 10 & 17 Sept from £399.95,  
22 Oct from £299.95



### Black Forest & Alsace House Party - with free bar

The Black Forest is one of Germany's most popular regions with deep forests, winding rivers, rolling hills and pretty villages.

- Optional excursions:**
- Lake Titisee & Staufen £19.95 per person
  - Spa town of Baden Baden £19.95 per person
  - Alsace visiting Strasbourg £19.95 per person

**5 Days • 4 Nights:** 08 Aug & 26 Sept from £199.95



### Amsterdam & Bruges 4\* President Hotel

Enjoy a break taking in visits to cosmopolitan Amsterdam with its handsome tall gabled buildings, narrow tree lined streets and tiny bridges combined with a visit to Bruges. The President Hotel has a top class range of facilities.

**3 Days • 2 Nights:**  
23 September & 21 October from £139.95



### Lido di Jesolo with included excursions to Venice & Slovenia

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- Included Excursions:**
- Venice
  - Slovenia & Portoroz

**8 Days • 7 Nights:** 27 August from £399.95



### Brussels, Bruges & Adinkerke

Take in a visit to magnificent Brussels, picturesque Bruges & do some bargain shopping at Adinkerke. We stay at the 3\* Novotel Lille Aeroport. This is set 10 minutes from the centre of Lille.

**3 Days • 2 Nights:**  
19 August, 16 Sept, 21 Oct, 18 Nov from just £89.95



### Italian Riviera Super Saver

#### 3\* Hotel Nettuno

Diano Marina is a beautiful little town positioned by hills, featuring sandy beaches, a selection of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants. The 3\* Hotel Nettuno is set in a quiet location. All rooms have private facilities and there is frequent entertainment.

- Optional excursions:**
- Monaco & Monte Carlo £19.95 pp
  - Portofino - £19.95 pp
  - San Remo - £9.95 pp

**Special Offer: Book all 3 excursions for just £39.95 pp**

**7 Days • 6 Nights:**  
15 October & 12 November from just £199.95



### Paris Weekend with visit to Versailles

See the world's most enchanting city and discover the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame & the Arc de Triomphe. On day 2 an optional Paris morning excursion taking the main sights and on day 3 a visit to Versailles.

**3 Days • 2 Nights:**  
19 August, 16 Sept, 21 Oct from £129.95  
11 November from £99.95

#### 4 Days • 3 Nights:

- Included excursions:**
- Capital tour taking in the main sights
  - Paris by night and Montparnasse tower
  - Versailles (admission to Chateau extra)

09 September & 14 October from £169.95



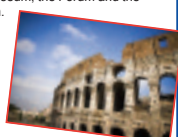
### Imperial Rome

Rome is an extraordinary city of spectacular buildings, bustling piazzas, colourful markets, designer stores and world famous landmarks. See the mighty Colosseum, the Forum and the breathtaking beauty of the Vatican.

- Optional excursions:**
- The Vatican - including guide - £30 per person
  - Walking tour - £25 per person
  - Pompeii - £29 per person

Book all 3 excursions for just £79 per person

**8 Days • 7 Nights:** 05 August from £299.95

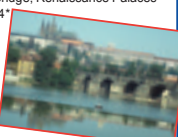


### Prague - City of 100 Spires

Prague boasts a stunning skyline with many world class attractions including the Charles Bridge, Renaissance Palaces and stunning churches. The 4\* Hotel Duo is set close to a metro station and has a wide range of facilities.

- Optional excursions:**
- Southern Bohemia & Cesky Krumlov - £19.95 per person
  - Half day visit to Charles IV's magnificent country castle - Karlstejn Castle (admission extra) - £9.95 per person
  - Visit to Northern Bohemia & Karlovy Vary - £19.95 per person

**8 Days • 7 Nights:** 17 September from £299.95



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**Mickey's Magical Fireworks & Bonfire**  
3 Days • 2 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket - Disney's Hotel Santa Fe  
03 November from £139.95

**Mickey's Magical Fireworks & Bonfire**  
4 Days • 3 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket - Disney's Hotel Santa Fe  
03 November from £169.95

**Disney Enchanted Christmas**  
4 Days • 3 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket - Disney's Hotel Santa Fe  
11, 18 & 24 November from £159.95  
02, 09, 15 December from £169.95

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## thechronicle

# Early start on factory repairs

Work to start repairing damage caused by arsonists at an historic former glass factory is expected to start next month.

But first special consent must be granted to develop the Grade II-listed Stuart Crystal Glassworks in Wordsley. And site bosses fear any further attacks could hinder the process.

Once the repairs have been done, planning can continue for a £5million glass museum linked to the nearby Red House Glass Cone, via an underground tunnel.

There were fears the building would have to be demolished but engineers declared the main structure could be saved.

The roof will be replaced and part of the walls rebuilt.

Since then there have been vandal attacks, including a fire three weeks ago.

David Freer, director of site owners Complex Developments, said: "Engineers are currently working on the drawings for the plans but it is necessary to get listed building consent."

"A planning application would need to be made but due to the urgent nature of the work we are hoping it may be waived."

"With a good head-wind we should

be getting started within six weeks."

Mr Freer, who has previously spoken of his "constant battle" against vandals, warned any more fires could cause problems.

He said: "If any further damage is caused to the site then it would increase costs and slow down the plans even more." He ruled out increased security on cost grounds.

Under plans the six listed buildings on the Stuart Crystal site would be transformed into a new glass museum with an underground link to the Red House Glass Cone.

## Students showing their skills

Students showed off their hair and beauty skills during a special bridal competition at Halesowen College.

Year 10 pupils from Shireland Collegiate Academy in Smethwick got stuck in with their beautifying efforts in an attempt to create a bridal hair and make-up look for their models.

They also had to comply with industry standards for meeting health, safety and hygiene.

As part of the project, they also carried out lots of research by looking at family wedding photos and examined bridal styles from different cultures.

The pupils attend a hair or beauty session every Wednesday morning at the college.

Curriculum development manager Janet Williams said: "All the students worked extremely hard and produced some fantastic results."

"They all did an amazing job and everyone received an award for all their hard work and effort."

## Nicola on run for school funds

Not so long ago, Black Country mother-of-one Nicola Wilkinson could barely run to the corner shop without gasping for breath.

But just five months on, she is running between 25 and 30 miles a week and has signed up for the Wolverhampton Half Marathon on September 4.

"Once I started, I just got addicted," said Miss Wilkinson, aged 38, from Coseley.

"Before that, I could hardly run at all without getting out of breath. I could hardly even get to the shops. But now, I'm running at least four times a week and have worked up to 10.5 miles now, which is ahead of my training schedule."

She entered the marathon to raise money for Pens Meadow special school in Brierley Hill Road, Stourbridge, which her 10-year-old daughter Amy attends.

The school is working hard so it can raise the £20,000 needed to build a sensory room.

"It's a wonderful school and sending Amy there has been wonderful for her," she said.

Anyone who wants to donate to the fundraising effort can call Pens Meadow School on 01384 818945.



From left, Amy Wilkinson, aged 10, Nicola Wilkinson, curriculum development manager Sarah Sparkes and George Tighe, 10, in the existing sensory room

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# AWARD WINNING VENUE



## Venue Cuisine wins Start up Business of the Year Award - BCABA

The Venue Cuisine Restaurant has shown its diversity since it opened only 16 months ago. The Venue Cuisine has not only marketed itself in a very difficult time extremely well, with its Privilege card system and Tribute and Disco Events, that take place twice a month within the Venue. They have also expanded with employing one of the best Pastry Chefs, to ensure they offer the best and freshest desserts. The Venue Cuisine Restaurant has now created its VCakes which offer Wedding Cakes and Birthday Cakes.

With all The Community work that The Venue Cuisine Restaurant's talented chefs offer, such as Educational Experience and working closely with the Schools and Dudley Education Business Partnership, they certainly deserved to win the Award.



# What's on at The Venue...

**Friday 12th August**

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Package to include Venue Cuisine Buffet **£19.95** per person

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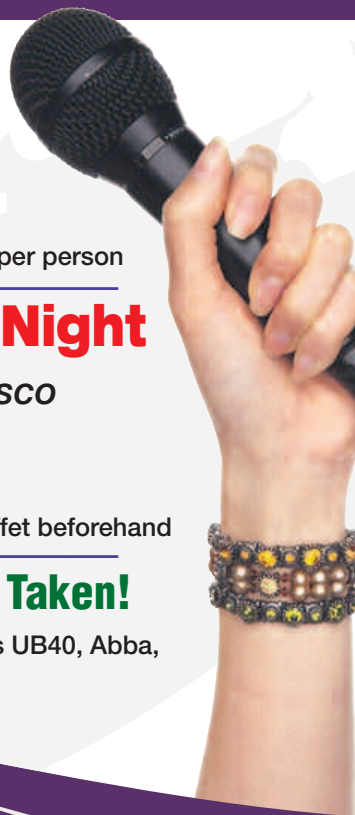
**Friday 26th August 2011**

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This week and next week (22nd and 29th July) the Halesowen Chronicle is publishing a 'Spot The Difference' Competition. Simply find the 7 differences between the two pictures below. Save the coupon from this week and next week, do the same and look out for the address of where to send them along with the entry form. It might be advisable to keep this week's page in a safe place so that you can choose who to spend your money with if you are the lucky winner.




**RULES.** Entrants must be aged 18 or over, closing date for entries will be Friday 5th August 2011. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued, the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within 2 months of receipt. Employees (or their immediate relatives) of the Express and Star may NOT enter. The Editors decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any relevant publicity.

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# Café Culture

## "The Cup that Loves You Back - But Not in an Instant"

A daily cup of fresh brewed coffee can deliver a great deal of positive health benefits according to experts. Unlike the instant variety, freshly brewed coffee is shedding its bad boy image and is instead now viewed as a drink with positive side effects. Research undertaken by the Mayo Clinic in the USA claims that just 2 cups a day can reduce the risk of Uterine Cancer. This is the most common cancer for women's reproductive organs.

Last year more than 42,000 cases were diagnosed in the USA causing 7,780 deaths as a result. The research amongst 20,000 women who participated, found that those who drank two to two and a half cups daily were less likely to develop uterine or endometrial cancer compared to those who did not drink coffee at all.

It's surprising when something that was once considered questionable for your health turns out to have health benefits. It is mainly attributed to the levels of anti-oxidants present in coffee that medical opinions have changed. Coffee is loaded with anti-oxidants as well as caffeine and each has different potential

benefits for improving health and reducing the risk of chronic illness such as:-

**Cancer:** Research has shown that coffee drinkers were 50% less likely to get liver cancer compared to non-drinkers

A few studies have also found ties to lower rates of colon, breast, mouth and rectal cancers.

**Diabetes:** Heavy coffee drinkers may be half as likely to get diabetes compared to light drinkers or non-drinkers. It is believed that coffee may contain ingredients that lower blood sugar levels and increase resting metabolic rates.

**Parkinson's:** Coffee seems to protect men but not women

against Parkinson's disease.

One possible explanation is that Estrogens and caffeine need the same enzymes and it is the estrogens that capture them in women.

So there you have it! A daily cup of freshly brewed "Joe" as our American cousins call it could be doing a lot more than just setting you up for the rigours of the day. Drink your way to better health but as with all things moderation is the key.

And where can you get a cup of the healing drink - freshly brewed and brimming with anti-oxidants? Here are our recommended establishments in your area:-



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Winner in Class 2010





# Country fans line up for a record attempt



The Hayley Oliver Band will be playing on Saturday



The Swing Commanders are ready for the 17th Wolverstock

Country music fans from all over are hot-footing it to the region this weekend to enjoy an annual festival.

Wolverstock 17, sponsored by Banks's, kicks off in East Park on Saturday and continues through Sunday, with entertainment running from 11am to 8pm on both days.

The event follows on from last year's festival which attracted more than 15,000 people – making it one of the biggest events of its kind in the UK.

The music starts on Saturday with Mac Bailey and Desperado opening up on the Arena stage, while on the UC Dance stage, Scott Bottrill gets things moving.

There are many big names appearing over the weekend including Jellico Road Band who will be playing hits from Nashville Stars, and The Swing Commanders – one of the UK's premier western swing band six-piece bands.

## Prize

Later on Saturday, John 'Growler' Rowell, one of Britain's top dance instructors accompanying the World Champion Rob Fowler on the UC dance stage.

Sundays highlights include The Hayley Oliver Band who won the best newcomer prize at the 2010 BCMA awards. Hayley was born blind, she has a degree in music from London University and fronts a brilliant six-piece London-based band singing a lot of original songs. There's also a chance to see Henry Smith's Country Band, the 2010 BCMA band of the year from Portsmouth, and Donna Wyld female entertainer of the year for last two years at BCMA awards, plus Brighton-based The Diablos are launching their new album at Wolverstock.

Other attractions include a family funfair with bouncy castles, along with stalls, food



Kate Evans, Louise Bent and Vicky Price, from Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, are ready for Rhinestone Mondays

and bars. And as Wolverstock will feature everything country, the organisers have teamed-up with Wolverhampton Grand Theatre who will be presenting a brand new country musical comedy called Rhinestone Mondays which will star Lyn Paul (New Seekers), Faye Tozer (Steps), Ian H Watkins (Steps) and Shaun Williamson (EastEnders and Extras) later

this year. So during the weekend's proceedings, The Grand and Wolves Civic are going to attempt the 'Rhinestone Record' – the greatest number of people dancing to the same musical track simultaneously at a country music festival.

The attempt will take place at Wolverstock on Sunday at 3pm which will then be submitted to the Guinness Book Of Records.

Anyone wanting to join in will be asked to dance to the country music classic Achy Breaky Heart and the Steps No. 1 track, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Cast member Shaun Williamson will be there on the day to lead the line dance along with line dance professionals Rob Fowler (World Champion) and John 'Growler' Rowell (national choreographer). Debbie Duncan will also be instructing all those taking part.

*Rhinestone Mondays follows the maverick members of the Warblewick 'Monday Night All Star Line Dancing Club' as they fight and feud on a weekly basis. A new romantic comedy by Joe Graham, it is fuelled and fired by a classic country soundtrack of practically every great hit fans already know and love.*

● **Wolverstock 2011 is held on Saturday and Sunday at East Park, Wolverhampton. Entry is Free. The Rhinestone record attempt is taking place on both stages at 3pm on Sunday.**

● **Rhinestone Mondays runs at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from September 13 to 17. Log on the Grand Theatre's website at [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk) for more information.**

## Running times for Wolverstock

### Arena Stage Saturday

12 noon Mac Bailey and Desperado  
12.45 TC Dance break  
1.05 Jellico Road Band  
2.00 TC  
2.20 Pig Earth  
3.15 The Mayor TC  
3.45 Dee D and the James Gang  
4.45 Rob Fowler and Rhinestone rehearsal  
5.15 4 Card Trick  
6.15 TC  
6.45 The Swing Commanders  
8.00 Close

### UC Dance Stage

12 noon Scott Bottrill  
12.10 John 'Growler' Rowell  
12.15 Richard Palmer  
1.00 Growler  
1.15 Magill  
2.00 Rob Fowler Masterclass  
2.30 Richard Palmer  
3.15 Growler Rhinestone Rehearsal  
3.25 Twin Falls  
4.10 Rob Fowler masterclass  
4.40 Jellico Road  
5.25 Growler  
5.45 Magill  
6.45 Growler  
7.00 Twin Falls  
7.45 Growler  
8.00 Close

### Arena Stage Sunday

12.00 Arizona Storm  
12.45 TC Dance  
1.05 Donna Wyld and Texas Tornado's  
2.0 TC  
2.20 The Hayley Oliver Band  
3.15 Rhinestone Challenge with Rob and Deb  
3.45 Henry Smith's Country Band  
4.45 TC and Growler  
5.15 The Diablos  
6.15 TC and Rob Fowler  
6.45 The Muddy Boots  
7.55 Trilogy  
8.00 End of Festival

### UC Dance Stage

12 noon Rob Fowler Masterclass  
1.15 Growler  
1.30 Paul Taylor  
1.30 Magill  
2.15 Growler  
2.30 Johnny Holland  
3.15 Growler and the Rhinestone Challenge  
3.45 Texas Tornado's  
4.30 Rob Fowler Masterclass  
5.00 Donna Wyld  
5.45 Growler  
6.00 Magill  
6.45 Growler  
7.00 Johnny Holland  
7.45 Rob and Growler  
8.00 End of festival

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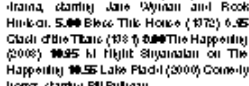
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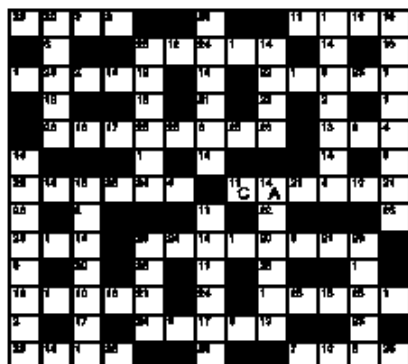


## Brain Gym

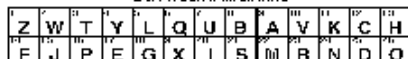
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## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both in the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Following on a blunty thump (10)
- A short near the bull ring (5)
- Writes down unexpressed achievements (7)
- Smoothing things out to suggest (8)
- Penitence needed in Virginia (4)
- Deeply interested, we hear, in what the communicating spirit did (6)
- Substance to be of some importance (5)
- How's the law make a mountain sound (4)
- Arrest the young offender causing an obstruction (8)
- Refuse to sink (7)
- Put on a higher plane - or bring to the ground, one hears (5)
- Experts in personal make up (10)

## Quick Clues:

## Across

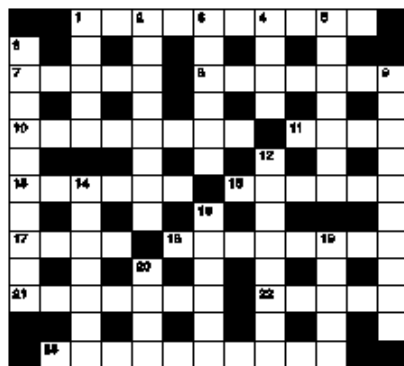
- Motionless (5)
- Concur (5)
- Homages (7)
- Powerless (8)
- Unaccompanied (4)
- Glamour (6)
- Test (6)
- Pleasant (4)
- Punctuation mark (4)
- Insult (7)
- Sitting on oneself (5)
- Dramatist (10)

## Down

- Have a feeling for what is reasonable (5)
- Give a name to the next issue (8)
- In danger, ran to a kind of knight (5)
- A hundred in established school of opinion (4)
- In case this is the decision (7)
- Depressed - not pined needing inner vitality (10)
- Descriptive of the idealistic astronaut (7)
- Push places in the fortifications (8)
- Change in place for one with a big bill (7)
- Current line for racing cars (5)
- Part of the team's badly away (5)
- Some nonsense written about one rebellion (4)

## Down

- Pool (5)
- Proposal (8)
- Japanese robe (6)
- Intense (4)
- Flexible (7)
- U.S. State (10)
- Killjoy (10)
- Slaving (8)
- Diplomatic (7)
- Assemble (8)
- Implied (5)
- Snug (4)



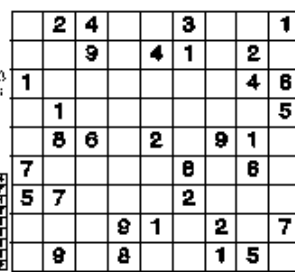
LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

CRYPTIC: Across: 10 Thump, 7 Bull, 10 Unexpressed, 8 Suggest, 4 Penitence, 6 Hear, 5 Importance, 4 Mountain, 8 Obstruction, 7 Sink, 5 Higher, 10 Ground, 10 Make up. Down: 5 Reasonable, 8 Issue, 5 Knight, 4 Opinion, 7 Decision, 10 Depressed, 7 Astronaut, 8 Fortifications, 8 Change, 7 Bill, 5 Racing, 5 Away, 4 Rebellion.

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is T. Words are: Tugboat, Solitaire, and Solitaire.



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**£650 PCM**



**OLDBURY, SUFFOLK ROAD**

A part furnished to suit detached property in popular residential area, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge and Separate Dining Room, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage.

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**HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE**

A brand new unfurnished ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

**£625 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE**

A brand new unfurnished first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Bathroom and Parking Space. Viewing Highly Recommended.

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**HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE, UFFMOOR LANE**

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**HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY**

An unfurnished semi-detached home on the popular Homer Hill Estate, close to local train station and shops, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Brand New Bathrooms with Shower, Brand New Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Study Room, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens UNDER GOING REFURBISHMENT AT THE MOMENT

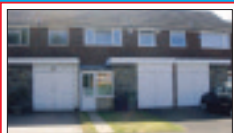
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**HAGLEY, MILL POOL CLOSE**

An unfurnished luxury ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Through Lounge/Dining Room with Views Across Open Countryside, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower & Separate WC, Communal Gardens, Parking Space and Garage, Washer Dryer (newish)

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**BLACKHEATH, HOLT ROAD**

A lovely unfurnished mid terraced home, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage

**£595 PCM**



**ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD**

An Unfurnished detached house within a cul-de-sac location, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

**£595 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, SUNBURY ROAD**

An unfurnished mid terraced house, close to Halesowen, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

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An unfurnished mid terraced house, on a very popular road, briefly comprising of: Lounge, New Fitted Kitchen, New Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Conservatory

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This lovely part furnished modern mid terraced house, local to bus routes, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Parking Space

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**CRADLEY HEATH, SUTHERLAND ROAD**

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Kitchen with White Goods, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

**£495 PCM**



**CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA ROAD**

An Unfurnished semi detached house briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking

**£475 PCM**



**CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE**

A unfurnished modern first floor apartment briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garden, Parking Space

**£475 PCM**



**UPPER GORNAL, TUDOR VALE**

An unfurnished end mews house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking

**£475 PCM**



**OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD**

An unfurnished flat above shops, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Spacious Living Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking at Rear

**£425 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY**

A lovely unfurnished first floor 1 bed flat, on the popular Homer Hill Estate, briefly comprising of: Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Parking to Side of Property, Communal Gardens

**£400 PCM**



**CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA GARDENS**

A modern top floor apartment, close to Old Hill Train centre, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Allocated Parking

**£395 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, SHORT STREET**

A fully furnished double bedroom in a terraced house share home. Gas central heating and double glazing, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs WC and Utility, Bathroom with Both Bath and Shower. RENT INCLUDES ALL BILLS.

**£385 PCM**



**HALESOWEN, MOUNT STREET**

An unfurnished and spacious ground floor flat, located close to Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen, Spacious Lounge, Shower Room, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking.

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# Always something to be done in the garden

Come rain or shine, gardeners throughout the land will be busy at their plots over the next week.

Here is a selection of suggestions for what should be looked at next in your garden.

- Plant autumn-flowering bulbs such as amaryllis, nerines and autumn crocuses.
- Feed long-flowering and late flowering border perennials.
- Collect and sow or store ripe seeds before they fall.
- Encourage clematis in flower to bloom again in late summer by applying a liquid feed.
- Take advantage of good weather to patch and paint glasshouses and frames.
- In hot weather, shade newly planted crops such as brassicas from the sun until they are established.
- Where roots are exposed due to watering, apply a top dressing of compost to tomatoes.
- Summer-prune wall-trained plums and cherries, with the exception of Morello, by shortening back side-shoots by a third.
- Continue to water containers and hanging baskets daily.
- Trim and reshape hedges.
- Top up the water in ponds and aerate it if you see fish gasping for oxygen in hot weather.
- Harvest fruit, vegetables and herbs while they are in prime condition. Freeze, store or give away produce if you can't use it immediately.
- Plant out seedlings and rooted cuttings.



Among the jobs to keep you busy in the garden this week is the need to water hanging baskets – should the summer sun show its face that is. Remember, these plants need extra help to thrive

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**Apperley Way, Halesowen**  
**£400**

A well presented 1 Bedroom ground floor flat in a sort after area of Halesowen.

The property comprises of: lounge, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom with shower. Communal gardens and driveway. The property is located near local bus routes and within walking distance to cradley road train station



**Brook Lane, Oldhill**  
**£495**

A large 2 bedroom apartment comprising of: off road parking, double glazed windows. It is in a popular area,

close to local amenities.



**Park Road, Halesowen**  
**£520**

A attractive and spacious two bedroom property. Briefly comprising of: Lounge, kitchen/dining room, Two good size bedrooms (master has en-suite shower room). Family Bathroom Rear garden and garage. Viewing Essential



**Apperley Way, Halesowen**  
**£400**

A 2 Bedroom Flat in a sort after location. The property comprises of: 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, lounge, kitchen and communal gardens. Close to local amenities, Bus routes and within walking distance to Cradley Railway Station.

Viewing Essential



**Balds Lane, Lye**  
**£475**

A well presented two bedroom property. Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. The property briefly comprises of: entrance hall, Kitchen, Living room, 2 bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property has a large drive way and low maintenance rear garden. Viewing Essential

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## Banners Street, Halesowen



£50,000 **NEW PRICE**

A two bedroom semi detached house comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom and rear garden. The property also benefits from double glazing.

## Middle Tree Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £140,000 **NEW INSTRUCTION**

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, dining room, extended kitchen, wc, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, garage, double glazing and central heating.

## Cornfield Road, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £100,000 **NEW**

A three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, breakfast kitchen, wc, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

## Highland Road, Cradley Heath



£89,950 **NEW**

Two bedroom end terrace property briefly comprising of hallway, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden.

## 28 Hawne Lane, Halesowen, B63 3RN



£132,750

We are acting on the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £132,750. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. Dixons Estate Agents 77 High Street Halesowen West Midlands B63 3BQ 0121 5507474

## Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



Offers Over £100,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, entrance porch, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating. No upward chain.

## Bromsgrove Road, Hunnington



£700,000

A three bedroom detached bungalow set within a plot comprising of driveway, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, en-suite, bathroom, rear garden, garage. Central heating and double glazing.



## Arkle Croft, Rowley Regis



£190,000

Three bedroom detached property, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, wc, bathroom, driveway, garage, and rear garden. Double glazing and central heating.

## Talbot Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £90,000

Terraced property briefly comprising of two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, rear garden. The property also benefits from double glazing.

## Mount Street, Halesowen



Offers Over £115,000

Two bedroom terrace property briefly comprising two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, refitted bathroom, rear garden, double glazing and central heating.

## Greenhill Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £130,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, garage, front driveway and rear garden. Double glazed and central heating.

## Bell End, Rowley Regis



£85,000

A two bedroom mid terrace property comprising lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, driveway and rear garden. Double glazing and part central heating.

## Maple Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £105,000

A two bedroom terraced property, lounge, dining room, kitchen, first floor bathroom, rear garden and patio area, double glazing and central heating.

## Greenhill Road, Halesowen



Offers Over £170,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, first floor bathroom, garden, driveway, double glazing and central heating.

## Winchester Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £70,000

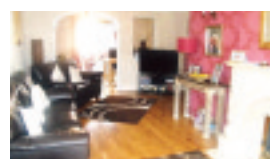
Two bedroom property briefly comprising of lounge, kitchen, first floor bathroom, garden and allocated parking.

## Sidaway Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £160,000

Four bedroom semi detached property, entrance porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining area, conservatory, kitchen, garage/room, first floor bathroom, rear garden and driveway providing parking. Central heating and double glazing.



## Oxenton Croft, Halesowen



£177,950

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, kitchen/diner, first floor bathroom, separate wc, driveway, rear garden, garage, part double glazing and central heating.

## Westbourne Road, Halesowen



£140,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, no upward chain, porch, lounge/diner, conservatory, kitchen, first floor bathroom, double glazing and central heating, rear garden.

## The Grange, Halesowen Road,



Offers Over £120,000

Two bedroom first floor flat with entrance via a security intercom door comprising of open plan lounge/modern kitchen, shower room, garage, parking and double glazing.

## Eagle Close, Rowley Regis



Offers Over £105,000

Three bedroom semi detached property, lounge, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility area and wc, first floor bathroom, rear garden, driveway, double glazing. No upward

## Counterfield Drive, Rowley Regis



£100,000

Three bedroom end terrace property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, bathroom, rear garden, off road parking.

## Blue Ball Lane, Halesowen



Offers Over £25,000

Two bedroom House, 25% shared ownership, briefly comprising of a lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden.



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BMW 525 SE DIESEL, AUTO, 07 Reg, Silver, Bluetooth, Black leather, 27K, FSH	<b>SOLD</b>

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MG TF 1.8 135 53 Reg, Trophy Blue, Half Leather, 51K, FSH	£2995
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CITROEN C4 GRAND PICASSO 1.8 VTR+ 08 Reg, 7 Seats, Grey, AC, Alloys, 51K, FSH, 1 Owner	<b>SOLD</b>
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# Win for Nissan as electric car transports a green village

Nissan has won Green-Car-Guide's Greenest Manufacturer of the Year Award for the all-electric Nissan LEAF.

Green-Car-Guide.com presents the award to recognise manufacturers that have made a special contribution by offering motorists more efficient, lower carbon vehicles – as long as they are also great to drive.

This is the fourth year of the award, and each year competition is stiffer.

Introducing an electric car would not necessarily qualify Nissan to win, but the LEAF is excellent to drive, well designed, and practical for a family. It is much cheaper to run than a conventional petrol or diesel car.

Paul Wilcox, managing director of Nissan Motor (GB) Limited said: "The Nissan LEAF is pioneering the electric car revolution in the UK and this award is further acknowledgement of our vision of sustainable mobility. We are also continuing with our efforts to reduce emissions in our petrol and diesel powered cars and this can be seen with the latest edition to the Micra range, the 1.2-litre DIG-S, which produces just 95 g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>."

Green-Car-Guide.com founder and editor Paul Clarke said: "Nissan has shown real leadership by launching the world's first all-electric family hatchback. However, not only has the company brought the vehicle to market, the LEAF is

also an excellent car to drive. It makes particular sense in urban areas, especially London, where there are real air quality issues, and where daily driving distances are generally well within the range of an electric vehicle.

Green-Car-Guide.com is pleased to acknowledge Nissan as a pioneer in bringing quality zero emission vehicles to market on a significant scale."

Green-Car-Guide.com helped to secure a LEAF as a community electric vehicle for the Ashton Hayes "Going Carbon Neutral" project.

## Supplement

This small Cheshire village is aiming to be the first community in the UK to go carbon neutral.

The LEAF can be used by any driver over 18 in Ashton Hayes, providing zero-emission transport. This may enable some residents to avoid running a second car.

It has its own garage with a solar-panelled roof, which helps to supplement the renewable-tariff electricity that powers the charge point.

Although the LEAF has zero tailpipe emissions, this recharging system ensures that the electricity to charge the car is also zero emission.

For more information visit [www.Green-Car-Guide.com](http://www.Green-Car-Guide.com) or [www.cpop.co.uk](http://www.cpop.co.uk).



Nissan LEAF gets the thumbs up at Ashton Hayes, the village using the car as a community electric vehicle

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\*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. Model shown is New Astra SRI 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc. PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 30 September 2011. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.



# Compact coupe fills that BMW niche



THE 1 Series M Coupe has been an eagerly awaited addition to BMW's M fleet for some time. That it's a good bit cheaper than a current M3 will be a bonus for many.

It's ironic, then, to learn that mechanically the 1M shares a quite a bit with the M3.

BMW's 1 Series Coupe has always been pitched as the performance poster boy of the range, but the 1M takes this a step further.

It might share the 3.0-litre, six-cylinder petrol motor of the 135i, but in 1M form the twin-turbo unit boasts a healthy 340 horsepower and an equally useful 369lb/ft of torque.

And the M3 connection? In reality the 1M is an M3 in 1 Series clothes, albeit ones that have been stretched over a shortened and modified M3 chassis. This is partly the reason for the car's muscular stance. The car's wider track is all M3, which does wonders for its ride and handling balance.

Forget any notions of this car being little more than a shrink-wrapped M3, though.

BMW has sought to carve out a nice little niche for the 1M. And with rivals such as Porsche's Cayman and Audi's RS3 mentioned in the same breath, this is no cut-and-shut job. It's also no slouch, with on-paper performance figures that almost match its bigger brother.

## Original

For every rose-tinted notion that BMW's original E30 M3 was and still is a driving sensation, there's always a counter argument that, in today's world, it's slow and needs revving hard to uncork its modest potential.

The later E36 isn't far behind, but for a new generation of financially independent and informed enthusiasts, the 1M could well be the modern interpretation they're looking for.

The 1M is compact but unlike its fondly remembered predecessors isn't lacking when it comes to safety kit (airbags, ABS, ESP) and creature comforts (climate control, leather, cruise control, decent audio).

With all the best bits from the current M3 under you and a massaged in-line turbo six-cylinder motor up front, the 1M delivers a sparkling performance that anyone with a fondness for old-school rear-drive fun will love. It even comes with BMW's trick M differential lock to enhance grip and stability when pressing on.

The car's weighty but direct steering never fails to communicate the road conditions. The stubby manual gear lever slots securely into the ratio of your choosing no matter how fast you shift.

And, this is the best bit, despite the car's short wheelbase and wide track, the ride is more forgiving than you could hope for, even when accounting for the car's super low-profile tyres wrapped around the M3 Competition model's alloy wheels.

Completing the experience is the 1M's engine, which is never short of puff or character. The latter takes the form of a deep-chested rasp that rises to a rich, baritone wail when the six-pot motor is fully extended.

It's even better from the outside, thanks in part to the car's quad tailpipes.

## Struggle

On a practical note, you'll struggle to detect the forced induction assistance, with only the slightest hint of turbo whistle audible at low speeds.

Wind up the motor and the result is an elastic response, encouraging you to hold a gear for as long as is humanly possible.

Overtaking potential is present in spades, and thanks to the engine's near bottomless pit of torque, you rarely have to drop a gear to make a move.

**"Forget any notions of this car being little more than a shrink-wrapped M3"**



Overtaking potential is abundant

## Bumper to Bumper

**Model:** BMW 1 Series M Coupe from £40,020 on the road

**Engine:** 3.0-litre petrol unit developing 335bhp and 369lb/ft of torque

**Transmission:** Six-speed manual transmission as standard, driving the rear wheels

**Performance:** Maximum speed 155mph, 0-62mph 4.9 seconds

**Economy:** 29.4mpg  
**CO2 rating:** 224g/km

Factor in the car's impressive agility and composure over the most challenging roads, and it's hard not to be impressed. Grip is in plentiful supply until you turn the traction system off, and then it's a whole new ball game.

But get this. There's no need to be flying at some crazy speed to enjoy yourself. The car's eagerness to play and the modest power and grip levels allow you to break loose at sensible speeds, not supercar go-to-jail velocities.

Look beyond the "one of 450" limited run cabin plaques – yes, that's the full UK allocation – and the 1M offers drivers a simple combination of an abundance of power, an agile

By Iain Dooley

chassis, a composed ride without any electronic interference, a trick differential and a manual gearbox.

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### Suzuki Swift SZ2

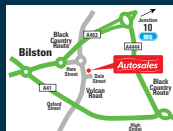
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from £6,495\*

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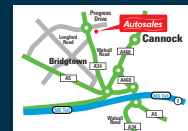


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Swift model shown is the SZ2 3 door M/T available from £8,495\* on the road (metallic paint available from £399). Alto model shown is the 1.0 SZ2 M/T available from £6,495\* on the road (metallic paint available from £380). Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 129g/km to 109g/km. \*\*Alto range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 62.8 (4.5) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 54.3 (5.2) to 64.2 (4.4). Official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from 122g/km to 103g/km.

\*VAT FREE offer is based on the Swift 1.2 SZ2 3 door M/T available at £8,495 including a customer saving of £1,715 which equals the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £10,210. \*\*The Swift 1.3 DDIS M/T model falls into the Government Vehicle Excise Band B at £20 per year from year 2 onwards, first year free. \*109g/km CO<sub>2</sub> relates to the Swift 1.3 DDIS models. †VAT FREE offer is based on the Alto SZ2 available at £6,495 including a customer saving of £1,325 which equals the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £7,820. ††The Alto 1.0 M/T model falls into the Government Vehicle Excise Band B at £20 per year from year 2 onwards, first year free. These offers are subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st July 2011 and 30th September 2011 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to press.





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We Want Any Car, established in 2009 at Cannock, Staffordshire, are expanding their online car buying company throughout England and Wales.

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We Want Any Car have a simple, easy to use website, where customers enter their registration number to obtain a free valuation for their car and then select the nearest office to where they live for an appointment, 7 days a week.

Pictured above are just some of the Office Managers, collecting their brand new vehicles, who are now part of the We Want Any Car group.

Area Manager Russell Greene, who is responsible for the London and M25 regions, is seen here handing over a new van to Malcolm Owen, Office Manager for Luton and Stevenage.

Operation Director Tim Clapham adds: "With over 10 offices now open in the Midlands region and the amount of recommendations we were achieving, it only seemed natural to expand the business further afield. Many customers were travelling more than 80 miles to sell us their car, and so in line with this demand new offices were opened. This in turn helps us promote our company and inform the public that there is an alternative in the car buying market."

We look forward to an exciting and busy year, with further expansion planned for 2012."

We Want Any Car website at [www.wewantanycar.com](http://www.wewantanycar.com)

**FACT: WE PAY MORE AT \***  
[www.wewantanycar.com](http://www.wewantanycar.com)

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Michelle, Leeds

\* Please note: MAKE SURE YOU CHOOSE WE WANT ANY CAR, as in nearly all cases the nett amount paid into our customer accounts, after test drive and appraisal, will be more than similar online car buyers.

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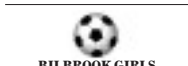


### BARLEY MOW

Require players to strengthen  
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Contact Stuart Cornaby on  
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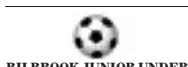


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Are currently looking to  
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school years 6, 7 or 8 in Septem-  
ber. We are an FA Charter Stan-  
dard Club. All Coaches  
CRB checked.

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joining us now.

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Trials being held at Bilbrook,  
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Contact Rob on 07881 740430.



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Brian Clark on 01922 441459  
or bricoles@hotmail.com

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### GENTLEMAN LOOKING FOR CD

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Must be current year 2.

Contact John on  
01902 893962/0774 026211.

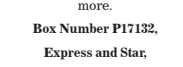
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11 a side September.

For more details call.  
Bal on 07919 555545 or  
Richard on 07737 805789.

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U11's current year 5 - call Tom  
Morris 07769 842792.

U17's Cougars call Jason  
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Please contact Lee Cottis on  
07810 486501 for more details.

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Very good quality, 1 three plus  
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Plus extras.  
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On 11 month site near  
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**35FT X 12FT**  
three bedrooms, sited  
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decking area, CH, view of  
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With all and washroom.  
With all accessories and  
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2002, CRIS Registered, full  
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4-berth, 1993, end bathroom,  
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No damp.  
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**HORSEFIELD TORTOISES** x 2  
4 years old, with cage. £230. Sale  
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Puppies, 4 boys, 1 very tiny girl,  
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£200. 0121 530 1954.

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Telephone  
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Telephone 07950 759953.

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reason, £250. 07928 500475.

**SHIH TZU PUPPIES** DLRC Reg.  
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1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
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3. Ensure that you are given  
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Both parents are pedigree and  
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4 years old, with cage. £230. Sale  
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**JACK RUSSELL** Chihuahua cross  
Puppies, 4 boys, 1 very tiny girl,  
2nd year, wormed, both parents  
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£200. 0121 530 1954.

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**JACK RUSSELL** Puppies, small  
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**STAFFORDSHIRE BLT** Terrier  
puppies with papers, ready soon,  
two bitches, £200. 01562 515964.

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seven months old, spayed and  
fully inoculated. Dudley  
01543 211075.

**TWO FLUFFY** kittens, one male,  
one female, very cute, £30 each  
used a good home. Wolverham-  
pton area 01902 250313.

**WANTED AVIARY** birds for large  
private estate. Also geese and  
Poultry for beginner and Parrot  
for house pet. 07970 485491.

**YORKIE TERRIER** Puppies,  
£300.  
07917 323099.

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when pur-  
chasing a puppy there are some  
simple guidelines you can follow  
to ensure that you are not pur-  
chasing from a puppy farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the  
puppy whilst it is still with it's  
Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a  
puppy from any other location  
than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given  
any KC documentation, if  
pedigree.

Whilst Midland News  
Association publications take  
great care to avoid publication  
of advertisements from Puppy  
Farmers we cannot accept any  
liability should readers pur-  
chase from this  
kind of establishment.

**ADORABLE BLT** Persian  
kitten, ready now. £90.  
01902 751354

**BEAUTIFUL CONTINENTAL**,  
well, four only left, £20 each  
01746 712627.

**BICHON FRISE** puppies, 2 boys,  
£400, 1 girl, £450 girl. Full ped-  
igree, no KC. 07841 571721.

**BLACK LABRADOR PUPPIES**  
two dogs, 3 weeks old, super pets.  
£250 each. 07512 221128.

**BULLDOG** x Staffie Puppies,  
wormed, vaccinated, chunky  
pups. £225. 07729 829202.

**CAVALIER PUPPIES**, ready soon,  
£400. 50 years old. Mrs Winwood,  
Airedale, 01299 961396.

**CAVAPOO** Puppies (Cavalier x  
Poodle), black/apricots,  
from £450. 07897 536054.

**CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES** 7 weeks,  
excellent pedigree, parents can  
be seen. £385. 07929 276143.

**CHIHUAHUA PUPPIES**  
Very small boys.  
Both parents are pedigree and  
can be seen. Dad is only 3/1lbs.  
All pups are wormed  
and fleaed and ready now.  
£550 each.  
01952 850645 or 07816 081804.

**COCKER SPANIEL PUPPIES**, 2  
KC reg, chocolate boy, 1 lemon  
boy, both parents can be seen,  
dad is black show type, mom is  
black. £500. £500, ready July.  
28. 07712 209396.

**COMPLETE POND**  
with approx 60 fish,  
Ghost/Graze



**AUDI A4 TDI**  
1999T, tax end Aug, MoT end Nov, net green, part SH, EW, RCL, alarm, alloys, CD player, nice clean car, drives superb.  
£1,000.  
01922 412499 / 07875 079194.

**BMW 318IS**, 1998, blue, MoT July 2011, runners, excellent running, very good condition, £1,250.  
Telephone 01902 662408.

**CITROEN XSARA 1.4**, s reg., full MoT, taxed, 83k, sunroof, CD, silver, EW, £550, 07890 088795.

**CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 1.6LX**, 2002, MoT Nov, tax, 67,000 miles, excellent condition, £1,295, 07984 297114.

**DAEWOO MATIZ SE**, 5-dr hatchback, W reg., 9 months MoT, 71,000 miles, Silver-Good condition, £525, 01902 496308.

**FIAT MULTIPLA 2000**, W reg., 16, 89,900 miles, long MoT, good condition, £1,000, 01384 829463 or 07973 079502.

**FIAT PUNTO 1.2 Sporting**, 16V, R reg., very tidy and reliable car, 12,000 miles, March 2011, 07917 061086, Dudley.

**FIAT PUNTO 1997**, 5dr, 4600 miles, tax till end of year, £350 one.  
Telephone 01384 561732.

**FIAT SEICENTO SPORT**, 2000, 2000cc, reg, 3 months tax, alloy, EW, Good reliable car, £550, one, 01902 947139 or 07890 079491.

**FORD ESCORT** estate, R reg., diesel, 100,000 miles, good condition, £500, n.o., 01902 336053, 0795024240.

**FORD FIESTA 1.3 Red**, 3dr, 2001, 12 months MoT, four months tax, 20,000 miles, RCL, bargain £1,100, 07834 183562.

**FORD FIESTA**, 3 door, X reg., 55,000 miles, black, full MoT, 2001, 12 months MoT, 11,000 miles, drives great, £995 one, 01902 626131, 122887.

**FORD FIESTA Freestyle**, 2001, 12 Mths MoT, grey, PAS, RCL, EW, alloys, alarm, Fog, Rear arches need attention, hence £995 one, 07920 776590.

**FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1200CC**  
T reg, 5dr, PAS, alloys, recent clutch, 11 months MoT tax, Nov, very good condition.  
£550.  
01902 568948 / 07976 510713.

**FORD FOCUS 1.4**, black, Y reg., service history, MoT and tax August 2012, good condition, £1,100 one, 07708 540195.

**FORD KA**, 2002, 63,000 miles, 2000cc MoT, pass, ideal first car, very good condition, £1,275, 01384 359518.

**FORD KA**, 2000, 39,000 miles, black, air bag, MoT, metallic paint, pas, tax, petrol, Good condition, £500, 01902 626131, 122887.

**FORD KA 1300CC** red, very good condition, 84,000 miles, full MoT, 2001, 12 months MoT, W reg, £595 one, 07793 003407.

**FORD MONDEO LX**, Nov 1995, same owner, last 5 years, very reliable, MoT Nov 26, £350, 07913 774940 (Stourbridge area).

**HYUNDAI ATOS**, 1.0, 2000(V), pas, AC, all electrics, 65,000 miles, SH, blue, new MoT, £895, 07501 011229.

**MAZDA 625 S** reg., superb condition, long MoT, £400 for quick sale, 01902 256170.

**MERCEDES C240 Elegance**, 1998, auto, 75k, MoT Nov, Family owned for 12 years, £1,000 one, 01902 075718.

**MG ZR+**  
3dr, hatchback, 2002, blue, MoT, 76k miles, 2 new tyres, fitted, alloys, CD, EW, petrol, manual, electric sunroof and windows, £1,195 one, 07836 216417.

**PEUGEOT 106** Independence, blue, 2002, reg, 3 months tax, MoT March 2012, lady owner, 45k, £1,200 one, 07906 549728.

**PEUGEOT 106 S Blue**, S reg, less than 50,000 miles £400 one, call 07803 066215.

**PEUGEOT 106** ski 1995, 112,000 miles, MoT, diesel, 1000cc, replacement cylinder head, new water pump, cam-belt, new plug, relay unit, £200 01299 405728.

**RENAULT MEGANE RT Sport** Alti, 2001, MoT, MoT April 2011, 20,000 miles, mechanically sound, £550, n.o., 07508 179006.

**ROVER 25 1.4i IMPRESSION**  
2003, 47,000 miles, silver, MoT tax, £995 one, 07722 554391.

**ROVER 45** diesel, 03, silver, lady owner, low mileage, full electrics, fsh, excellent, £1,275, 07845 665506.

**ROVER 75 CONNOISSEUR SE DIESEL (BMW) AUTO**  
2002, FSH, memory leather, ice cold AC, PDC, CC, CD, New tyres, alloys and drives superb, hence £1,250, Kidderminster 07677 206072.

**ROVER 75 W reg**, petrol, Tax, 10 months MoT, 93,700 miles, AC, FSH, ABS, PAS, Good condition, £850 one, 01384 270969.

**SAXO 1.4 FURIO**, 3 door, silver, W reg, MoT till February, taxed till August, nice clean car, £1,100 one, 07967 949494.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i** Club, 2003, 5dr hatchback, manual, petrol, low mileage 45k, 8 months MoT, 2 months tax, 1 owner, £1,100, 01902 839829 (Evenings).

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2**, T reg., taxed, MoT, good condition, bargain, £725 one, 07974 462296.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRI**, Y reg, 2001, Petrol, MoT, CD, 1 car, good condition, very reliable, £1,400 one, 07817 167408, W-ton.

**VAUXHALL CORSA 2000**, MoT and tax, EW, ES, very good condition, £500.  
Telephone 07759 737894.

**VAUXHALL CORSA**, 2001, 1.0, 84k, 8 months MoT, 3 months tax, 5 door, st, ch, e/w, £1,100 one, 07941 866343.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA Aretic**, P Reg, silver, 57,000 miles, long MoT and tax, towing bracket, £550, 01902 842641.

**VOLVO 80 S 51 reg**, MoT June 2012, SORN, silver nice clean condition, £595, 01384 237236 or 07973 490950.

**VOLVO V40 Estate**, auto, 98b, tax/MoT, new radiator and exhaust, alloys, good condition, £590 one, 07944 155438.

**WANTED**  
Electric scooter, 2010, only 50 miles, free tax, not for the faint hearted, 70mph, 50p to charge, same as 800cc scooter, exchange for big motorbikes, scooter, diesel or LPG car, 07906 143520.

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**SINNIS 125 Scooter**, very sporty, 5 months MoT, 2000cc, 125cc, 1992, 01922 963002 / 07729 221951.

**SUZUKI GSX-R 750 K6**  
Black, 1 owner, excellent condition, full MoT, SH, 17k, Meta alarm, immobiliser, full exhaust Titanium exhaust system, power commander, dynotuned, 2 new tyres, carbon hugger, side panels, heal guards, new rental chain and sprockets, £4,850 one, 07870 204950.

**SUZUKI RGV Collectable Classic**  
Cylinder head needs attention otherwise immaculate, Black, Restricted, 16k miles, 1996 reg, £1,500 one, 07891 510188.

**TAMORETTI Retro Scooter**, 50cc, 51 plate, 1,100 miles, tax/MoT, 01922 963002 / 07729 221951.

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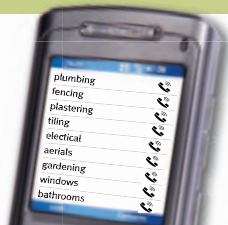
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# sport

## VICTORY PLANTS OLD HILL AT TOP

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

**Saturday July 16**  
**OLD HILL (20 POINTS) 120 - 1 BEAT COVENTRY & N.W. (0 POINTS)**  
**118 BY 9 WICKETS.**

Thanks to the sterling efforts of our groundsman, Peter Day and his son Tom, with a little help from his friends following overnight and morning rains, the First XI game at Haden Hill started with the match reduced to 34 overs per side.

Having won the toss, Captain Nathan Round invited Coventry to bat first and the host's bowlers, Ed Denham and Zafran Ali reduced the visitors to 57-5 wickets in the 13th over.

Then a stand of 47 runs between Clements (32) and Horsley (22) halted Old Hill's progress temporarily before Sharkey Hussain came on to take 4-23 including two wickets in one over to mop up the lower order for just 14 additional runs. Zafran Ali finished with 4-54 and Ed Denham an excellent 2-14 from 7 overs as Coventry were bowled out in the 30th over for a meagre 118 runs.

In reply, Old Hill's Danny Cox and Mike Hingley put together a half century opening partnership before Cox holed out in the deep for 22. Then Hingley (42 not out) and Nitesh Patel (39 not out) saw the hosts home to a thoroughly deserved victory in the 29th over with an unbroken stand of 66.

The win takes Old Hill to the top of the League as they recorded only their second home victory of the season.

**MOSELEY (5 POINTS) OLD HILL (5 POINTS) MATCH ABANDONED.**  
 Heavy overnight and early morning rain meant that the 2nd XI game scheduled to be played at Moseley was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

**HANLEY CASTLE (5 POINTS) OLD HILL (5 POINTS) ABANDONED.**  
 Similar conditions at Hanley Castle where the 3rd XI were due to play their W.C.L. game meant that no play was possible there either.

**OLD HILL (5 POINTS) HANLEY CASTLE (5 POINTS) ABANDONED.**  
 The pitch at Wassell Grove where the 4th XI were to play hosts to Hanley Castle was also waterlogged and again no play was possible.

**Sunday July 17**

**OLD HILL (1 POINT) CHADDESLEY CORBETT (1 POINT) - MATCH ABANDONED.**

The Sunday XI home game against Chaddesley Corbett began under threatening skies as Old Hill took first knock but after just under an hour's play the rain returned and the inevitable abandonment ensued.

Fixtures: Saturday July 23 1st XI away at Berkswell, noon start; 2nd XI at home to Kidderminster Victoria, 12.30pm. start; 3rd XI at home to Old Elizabethans, 1.30 p.m. start; 4th XI away at Old Elizabethans, 1.30pm. start; Sunday July 24 Sunday XI at home to Lye, 2pm. start.  
**Derek Griffiths**

## Title winners looking good in new kit

Schoolchildren are celebrating their championship triumph by donning new kits supplied by a Black Country charity.

Success has been served up by the footballers at Lutley Primary School, in Halesowen, this season.

The team, made up of 18 youngsters from Year 6, scooped the Halesowen interschools league title this year.

Staff at the school wanted the squad to look the part after their winning run. Volunteers from Dudley Stroke Association offered to donate a new kit for the team to use after holding a talk at the school, in Brookwillow Road. The new blue kit with a white trim has health messages written on it.

Assistant headteacher Kelvin Daley, who coaches the team, said everyone was delighted with the charity's donation. "We have two reasons to celebrate, not only winning the league title, but these new kits have just added to that. The new kits look great and hopefully we will be able to get the important message across at the same time."

## Student peaks with £2,000

A Halesowen College student has raised more than £2,000 for charity by completing the three peaks challenge.

Ryan Woodcock, aged 19, completed the task as part of a West Midlands Police team for Help for Heroes. The challenge involves walking the three highest mountains in England, Scotland and Wales within 24 hours.



Left to right, trustee from Dudley Stroke Association Anne Adams with Lutley Primary School's team captain Jack Freeman, along with players Jonty Round, Harry Wakeman, assistant headteacher Kelvin Daley, and footballers Jack Parton and Joe Wythes, all aged 11, in their smart new team kits celebrating their league triumph

## Plaque for Edwards unveiled

A blue plaque honouring local football legend Duncan Edwards has been put up at a house where he lived in Manchester.

Large crowds gathered to watch as the Dudley-born star's friend and Manchester United team-mate Sir Bobby Charlton unveiled the commemoration.

The plaque has been installed at a semi-detached house in Gorse Avenue, Stretford, Manchester,

where Mr Edwards lived before his death in the Munich Air Disaster in 1958.

Staff and pupils at the nearby Stretford High School were instrumental in getting the plaque created after they discovered the footballer lived at the house while working on a project.

Duncan was born in Dudley and lived in Elm Road, on the Priory estate, attending Priory Primary

School and Wolverhampton Street Secondary School.

He played in the legendary Manchester United squad, dubbed the Busby Babes after manager Sir Matt Busby, and was selected for the England squad.

He died at the age of 21 after a plane carrying the team skidded off a runway in Munich, Germany, while attempting to take off after fuelling. Twenty-two others were killed.

## HOCKEY

## Glorious day for Halsonians with triumph

### OLD HALESONIANS 2 REDDITCH 0

Old Halesonians Hockey Summer League team enjoyed a 2-0 win in glorious conditions on Tuesday at The Dell Stadium. Their opponents Redditch never looked a threat to the home side, who sit mid table in the Worcestershire Division of the Mercian Summer Hockey League.

Captain Jim Gurmin opened the scoring after 20 minutes when he slipped it around the keeper, and Matt Harrold made certain of Hales' victory in the second half.

### OLD HALESONIANS 2 LODGE PARK 4

On Wednesday, the Old Halesonians Fathom Summer team suffered a 4-2 defeat at the hands of Lodge Park. On Saturday, Old Halesonians 3rd XI drew 1-1 in a pre-season game versus Old Wulfrunians.

OHHC and Dudley MBC aim to run five days of Hockey coaching as part of the 2011 Summer Activezone.

The sessions will run Monday August 1 until Friday August 5, from 10am-2pm at Windsor High School, Halesowen. OHHC hope to attract some new players to their youth development set up. The sessions are available to any young person aged 8-13 years and will cost £5 per day. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. For further information please contact Steve Driver of OHHC on 07772 148824, the Dudley Sports and Physical Activity team on 01384 815594, or email activezone@dudley.gov.uk.

## TABLE TENNIS

## Whiley secures a doubles high

With the start of next week's British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships in Nottingham now just days away, Halesowen's Jordanne Whiley and fellow Briton Lucy Shuker secured a career best doubles performance against Dutch opposition last Friday at the Swiss Open in Geneva.

British No 2 Whiley, 19, and Hampshire's British No 1 Shuker, who recently finished fourth at Wimbledon in their SW19 debut as a partnership, defeated top seeds Marjolein Buis and Walraven to reach the women's doubles final in Geneva.

Whiley and Shuker battled their way to a first ever win over a world top 10 Dutch doubles partnership when the British third seeds beat Buis and Walraven 7-6(3), 7-6(6). They now take on German second seeds Sabine Ellerbrock and Katharina Kruger in the final.

However, Whiley's bid for a place in the women's singles semi-finals ended in a 3-6, 2-6 loss to Belgian world No 7 Annick Sevenans. Whiley is competing in one of her former competition tennis wheelchairs at the Swiss Open after her current competition chair was damaged on the flight out Geneva earlier this week.

Whiley will go to Nottingham next week aiming to reach the women's singles semi-finals for the second year in succession. Last year she hit a career best at the British Open.

## Charity game to honour Paul Dudley crash to biggest defeat of season

A charity cricket match is being held this Sunday to commemorate a former Halesowen Cricket Club player.

A Halesowen XI will take on Royal Navy Cricket Club for the Paul McCann Trophy, an annual challenge match now in its fifth year.

Paul was killed in an accident aboard HMS Tireless, a Royal Navy submarine in March 2007 and a charity - The Paul McCann Fund for Needy Children - was set up in his honour.

All proceeds from Sunday's game, which starts at 1.30pm,

will go to the charity which has so far raised £50,000.

A lifelong Birmingham City supporter, Paul spent the majority of his cricketing career at Halesowen Cricket Club, from his beginnings in the youth section to becoming a 1st and 2nd XI player. The fast bowler went on to represent the navy at cricket and rugby.

Entry to the ground is free and gates open at 11.30am ahead of activities before and after the 40-over game. A charity Zumbathon takes place from 11.45am to 1.15pm, for

which fancy dress is optional and beginners are welcome.

A barbecue, refreshments, bouncy castle, tombola, disco, charity auction and post-match presentations have also been lined up for the day's entertainment.

Visit [www.fundforneedychildren.org](http://www.fundforneedychildren.org) for more information about the charity or [www.halesowencricketclub.co.uk](http://www.halesowencricketclub.co.uk) for details on the day's events.

Free parking will be available at Sandvik on Manor Way, near Halesowen's Seth Somers Park ground.

Dudley crashed to their biggest defeat of the season and saw Tom Perry taken to hospital after a heavy fall.

The club's 2010 rider of the year was given precautionary x-rays on a neck injury but had full movement and was later released.

Kyle Newman (arm), Ashley Morris (shoulder) and Jon Armstrong (knee) also suffered injuries - Armstrong urged other team members not to race - with the first two also pulling out of the match on July 13. But none of them proved to be seriously hurt.

The encounter, on a patchy surface, was littered with falls and the heat seven crash between Perry, Morris and Belle Vue's Chris Widman prompted a track examina-

tion. However, the meeting continued, Dudley fielding only one rider in the 12th race and none at all in heat 10. The 10.30pm curfew brought an end to their suffering with three races yet to run and the result will stand.

Skipper Armstrong launched a staunch defence of his actions after urging his side to stop riding at Belle Vue.

Armstrong, interviewed during the match, told supporters: "We want to go home." The 36-year-old, a former Belle Vue rider, has vast experience of the circuit but acted to protect his team of teenagers.

"I wanted all my lads to go and say no," said the forthright Armstrong during the following day. But some of them

were worried - am I going to lose my job, am I going to get fined? I told them that could be sorted. The track was bad. It wasn't over-heavy with dirt. It was inconsistent. I'm just happy to get up with the kids this morning," he added.

Belle Vue: Adam McKinna 11, Jason Garrity 9, Kyle Howarth 9, Scott Richardson 7+3, Chris Widman 7+2, Karl Mason 7+2, Byron Bekker 3+1.  
 Dudley: Adam Portwood 4, Jon Armstrong 3, Tom Perry 3, Darryl Ritchings 2+1, Brendan Johnson 2, Ashley Morris 1, Kyle Newman 0.

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